

ST ANTHONY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



HOME LEARNING

Feb 2018

At St Anthony's Catholic Primary School, we believe that learning at home is an essential part of an effective education. Not only does it consolidate crucial skills taught in class each day, it provides an opportunity for children and parents to work collaboratively on projects that stimulate and inspire children's thinking and learning opportunities. Effective home learning gives the children the opportunity to become confident and independent in their own learning, which is an important value through their time in school and adult life.

Aims

- To develop an effective partnership between school, parents and carers which encourages pupils and their parents to share and enjoy learning experiences.
- To develop, consolidate and reinforce knowledge, skills and understanding of core subjects to strengthen basic skill progression throughout school.
- To develop the fluency and understanding of reading and to promote reading for pleasure.
- To enrich and stimulate creative learning through topic-based activities and themed learning tasks.
- To ensure a consistent approach throughout school.
- To use home learning as a tool to help continue to raise standards of attainment and enjoyment of learning.

The role of the class teacher

- To provide a termly home learning project, in the form of a learning menu, which provides a range of stimulating and engaging activities linked to the class theme or topic.
- To ensure that there is an adequate balance of tasks which provide regular opportunities to either pre-teach, develop, consolidate or reinforce basic skills in core subjects.
- To ensure reading is frequent and embedded throughout all home learning menus.
- To ensure that home learning tasks are appropriate, meaningful, stimulating and varied taking equal opportunities into account.
- To provide support and guidance for pupils who need it through lunchtime help or referring them to the weekly lunchtime home learning club.
- To monitor the progress of home-learning on the 'check-in' date.
- To select the highest standard of home learning to represent the class in the termly Home Learning Showcase.

The role of Parents and Carers

- To support their child and the school by ensuring children complete their home learning.
- To support, encourage and praise their children when completing their home learning, creating a positive learning environment.
- To be actively involved in their children's home learning activities whilst encouraging independence and decision making from their children.

- To provide dedicated, uninterrupted time to allow children to complete their home learning tasks.
- To make every effort to attend the Home Learning Showcase especially if informed that their child's learning is included.

The role of the pupil

- To complete all 'core' home learning tasks.
- To select and complete the required amount of topic-based home learning activities or tasks from the menu choices available.
- To present all tasks to a high standard and take pride in their work and home learning books.
- To seek guidance and support when needed.
- To challenge themselves by choosing appropriate tasks that stimulate and challenge their learning experiences.
- To bring all completed task into school on the required dates, ready to hand in or present to the class.

Home Learning Content

Home learning will consist of a termly learning menu linked to the curriculum topic within class, which will commence at the start of Year 1. The menu will include core tasks (mathematics, reading and writing) and a selection of cross-curricular tasks or experience activities which your child can select from- there will be a minimum number of tasks to complete.

At the end of each term, Home Learning deemed to be of the highest possible standard (quality, presentation or effort) will be carefully chosen to be part of the 'Showcase'. Parents of children, whose learning has been selected to be part of this showcase, will be sent a text message to specifically invite them to attend. A generic letter will also be sent to invite all parents and governors to the showcase.

Organisation of Home Learning

Teachers will hand out the learning menu at the start of each term. Teachers will discuss individual systems for home learning, required expectations and key dates with their own class as these will differ depending on age group and year expectations.

All children will have a home learning journal and all written work must be presented in this journal including sticking in loose sheets of paper. In the home learning journal, additional resources can be included such as photographs, postcards, designs, artwork etc...

Failure to complete

There will not be a consequence given to children who do not bring their home learning journal into school on the hand-in date. We are aware that each child will receive a different amount of support and guidance at home from parents/ carers and therefore we do not feel children should be punished as it may well be due to this that they haven't completed their tasks. Instead, parents will be informed of this and the child will be invited to the home learning lunchtime club.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The efficiency and effectiveness of the home learning policy will be monitored and evaluated by checking samples of work completed as home learning activities on a termly basis and in consultation with class teachers, children and parents.

Parents will be given the opportunity to comment on home learning at Parents' evening.

Date to be reviewed: January 2019