



Packington Church of England Primary School

Headteacher ~ Mrs C J Price

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Mill Street
Packington
Ashby-de-la-Zouch
Leicestershire
LE65 1WL
01530 412425

headteacher@packington.leics.sch.uk

HOMework UPDATE

Dear Parents,

Over the last term we have reviewed our homework system with the help of a working party made up of parents, staff and governors. The group discussed the benefits of pupils being encouraged to think, develop and use learning skills, as well as the positive and negative aspects of "My Choice". We have taken on board the views of the working party and we are going to make some changes to our current system as follows:

MY CHOICE

As a result of discussions we will still set activities that encourage pupils to use and develop skills and we will still allow 12 days to complete the homework. However, we will alternate activities so that one piece of homework will have a tighter, short, sharp focus on acquiring and developing a skill or concept. This homework activity will most likely ask the children to solve one or more specific problems, but will not involve repetitive drills.

The other activity will remain as a creative "My Choice" activity. However, more detailed guidance, hints and tips will be provided to give children and parents a starting idea which they may choose to use. Guidance will also be given on what is expected and what success looks like. Children may still develop their own ideas and can produce up to 2 sides of work for the creative activity but please remember this is the maximum and children may produce differing amounts depending on the task.

YEAR 6 PUPILS

In year 6 pupils are involved in studying the yr 6 curriculum but also are provided with opportunities for revision to recap trickier concepts and to narrow any gaps in learning. As a result pupils will move away from My Choice activities to predominantly receive weekly homework. The activities set will be short and sharp in focus and these may include a problem solving activity but may also be based on the revision of a specific skill that has been identified through teacher and self assessment.

On another note, Mr Emery is currently producing a glossary of vocabulary that pupils use and are expected to learn throughout the school (covering maths and literacy as well as the grammar definitions that will be included in the new grammar test). He will have this ready for a SATS meeting for Yr 6 parents planned for Monday 4th March. He is also looking at new resources that parents might find useful to use at home so please put the date in your diary as there will be lots of information and ideas to help you support your children.

READING

Reading will remain the same with the expectation that all pupils read at least three times a week and reading diaries are completed. We do like pupils to read as often as possible. Those pupils who do read three times a week and have their planners or home school diary signed will continue to get a raffle ticket for the weekly prize draw.

SPELLING AND TABLES

Children will still receive spellings and tables homework but we are making some minor changes to spelling to make it more progressive as pupils move through the school.

Pupils in Years 1 and 2 will continue to get weekly spellings to learn. Year 2 pupils will also continue to write their spelling words in sentences as this activity helps pupils of this age to develop their understanding and ability to write correct and interesting sentences.

As pupils move through Key Stage 2 they will be given a range of strategies that they can use to help them learn their spellings and there will be more opportunities for children to choose a method that suits them. So some children may find that writing their spellings in sentences remains a useful method but other pupils may prefer a quicker visual method for example. We will guide the children to choose the best method for them but teachers will actually assess the pupils ability to get their spellings correct as well as their ability to accurately use spelling words in their independent writing.

Over the coming weeks teachers will introduce these changes to the pupils and provide further guidance and information. Should you have any queries then please do ask your child's class teacher.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs C Price
Head Teacher

At Packington we want to do our best and work together.