



Home Learning at Meridian

Friday 14th September

Dear Parents/Carers,

Our home learning is intended to develop our children's excitement and passion for their learning and to help parents support their children at home. At Meridian, we believe home learning consolidates and reinforces skills and understanding in English, Maths and other curriculum areas; helps raise the level of achievement of individual pupils; provides opportunities for parents and children to work together; and, fostering an effective partnership between home and school. We also believe it gives our children the opportunity to develop their interpersonal and intrapersonal skills. Outlined in this letter are our expectations for home learning and your role as a parent/carer. We have listened to feedback from the children, their families and the teaching staff and have adapted home learning in way we feel best supports the children.

Role of Parents/Carers

Parents/carers are asked to:

- Sign the Home-School Agreement indicating their support for home learning and return to school. This will be sent home shortly.
- Promote the value of home learning to their children.
- Provide materials pens, pencils etc. If there are difficulties in sourcing any materials parents are advised to speak with the class teacher.
- Find time to read with their child
- Discuss, encourage and praise their child's efforts.
- Contact the school if they are not sure of some aspect of the home learning or if their child is experiencing difficulties in doing it.
- Contribute to school evaluation, through questionnaires and consultations, so we can monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of home learning systems.

Reading

This is the **main area of focus** for home learning. The pupils are encouraged to **read every day** for both their own development and also enjoyment.

- Nursery: have a 'borrow a book' table where children can sign out books and read them at home. Also available is a story sack which contains a book and suggested questions / activities parents may wish to use. Parents and carers are encouraged to record any reading at home in the collective reading record.
- Reception – Year 2: children will take home 1 – 2 books per week depending on length. These are levelled and based on their reading stage.
- Year 3 – Year 6: children independently choose a new home reading book from their classroom or bay area. Each week, children have the opportunity to visit the school library to choose a book. These should be brought in daily and changed when completed.

Reading Records

Every child from Reception to Year 6 will have a reading record which can be filled in by themselves or by the adult who reads with them. This will enable us to see how much reading is being done at home. Each entry will need the date, the book being read, how much was read and any comments about how they got on. These are to be brought in daily and teachers will check and sign reading records on a weekly basis to ensure children are reading regularly. Guidance on filling these in is shared at the Curriculum Chats during Terms 1, 3 and 5. Attached are some suggested comments you might wish to make as an adult reading with your child and also examples of what children might write too.

In addition to reading daily at home which a minimum requirement, we appreciate that some children might want to go over and above what is expected. Therefore we have a selection of practical and online solutions for those keen to keep busy with their learning outside of school. **There is no suggested length of time for how long children should spend on these activities as they are designed to be fun, not a chore, and to develop a positive attitude towards learning.**

Maths

All children will be given a 'We Love Maths!' home activity pack to explore, investigate and enjoy improving their maths skills through fun games. In each book there are 10 enjoyable activities designed to be played with an adult. Activities can be played several times and are aimed at improving children's fluency and confidence with number. Evidence suggests that repeatedly practicing a skill has a huge benefit back in the classroom when children are faced with a more challenging problem as they have a concrete set of number skills to fall back on. The child or parent can initial and date when they have had a go at an activity.



Multiplication Tables

It is a requirement of the National Curriculum that all children will know a range of multiplication tables and facts (at least up to 12x12) by the end of Year 4. To support this, children from Year 2 to Year 6 will have weekly times tables quizzes in school. The school also subscribes to Times Tables Rockstars and children are encouraged to use the app/site little and often. We recommend between 5-10 minutes per day either before or after school. The sole objective is they attempt to beat their own personal best. There are monthly assemblies which acknowledge the achievement as well as the opportunity for the children to pit their skills against their peers. Their login details can be found inside their reading record.



SUMDOG

Sumdog is an educational website that motivates students to practise reading, spelling and mathematics skills through online games. It can be played on PC, tablet and mobile devices and is free to download with their school login (see inside reading record). Children from Year 1 upwards will be shown how to access and use SumDog during school. Children are encouraged to access SumDog on a 'little and often' basis and **there is no minimum requirement in how long they spend on it.** Our intention is that children volunteer to use SumDog as a way of improving their English and Maths skills.



Home Learning will be reviewed at parents evenings but please do speak with your child's teacher should you have any questions or feedback.

Regards

Matt Doody
Deputy Headteacher

Headteacher - Claire Westcott
Roderick Avenue North, Peacehaven
East Sussex BN10 8BZ
Telephone: 01273 584212
e-mail: office@meridian.e-sussex.sch.uk
web: www.meridianschool.co.uk





Reading Record comment ideas for parents

Below are some examples of comments you might wish to use yourselves when commenting in the reading record.

- Read familiar words independently.
- Able to predict what happens next in the text.
- Showed good understanding of the text.
- Read with good expression.
- Worked out new words independently.
- Can ask/answer questions about the story.
- Worked out new words by sounding them out.
- Discussed the story and characters well.
- Used good spoken expression.
- Enjoyed reading this book a lot.
- Self-corrected own errors independently.
- Showed awareness of punctuation and read well according to it.
- Found it difficult to pause at full stops/commas.
- Changed expression for text in speech marks, even made up different voices for the different characters!
- Discussed the cover of the book and made predictions.
- Found these words tricky _____, _____ and _____.
- Totally absorbed in reading tonight!
- Needed encouragement to stay focused.
- Read with fluency and expression.
- Struggled to concentrate.
- Found this book too hard to read.
- Able to read this book with lots of help.
- Struggled to work out a lot of the vocabulary.
- Created tension as he/she did not want to read.
- Did not understand what he/she has read.
- Does not find this book very exciting.



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Reading Record comment ideas for children

I found the part where Harry goes into the forest very scary!
I was shocked to discover that it was George's plan all along!
I think that Percy is going to win the contest.
I have read and enjoyed a book by Roald Dahl before so I think I am going to enjoy this.
The cover suggests that this is a scary book.
I am excited to read more of this book because it is very funny!

I am not enjoying this book I think it is obvious what is going to happen next.
I hope that they find their lost dog soon, I think that Lottie will be very upset if they don't.
Discovered new words: ingenious, arachnid and Triassic.
Kept getting distracted when reading today!
The pictures in this book tell a different story to the words! This makes this book very funny/interesting.
This book reminds me of...
This book makes me think about...
Use emotions, tell me what you found hard, what you liked, what you didn't like. How do you feel about the book? What do you think the characters feel? Do you like the characters? Why?