



St Paschal Baylon Catholic Primary School

Following In The Footsteps Of Christ

6th January 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

On behalf of the staff, I would like to wish you all a very happy new year and thank you for the kind gifts and cards that we received at the end of term. I hope that you all had a peaceful and enjoyable Christmas and were able to spend some time together as a family. It was wonderful to welcome our children back to school yesterday and I am sure they have all somehow grown in the space of two weeks!

As we start our new term I would like to provide you with an update on our homework policy.

Throughout the Autumn term we reviewed how we use homework across the school within different year groups. Homework is always a contentious issue and we are very aware that it would be impossible to set homework at a level that pleases everyone. At any given time, what one group view as being too much homework set, others would view the exact same homework as too little. Some parents will also have a view that there should not be any homework. Therefore, a balanced approach is required. This would include pieces of homework that we would expect to be completed and others which are voluntary and up to parents/children to decide if they would like to complete and practise certain skills.

Homework at St. Paschal Baylon Catholic Primary School is anything that the children do outside of school which contributes to their learning in response to guidance from the school. Homework encompasses a variety of activities across the school which allows parents and carers to support their children's learning. The school values the importance of reading as a skill for life and homework will always include an emphasis on developing reading skills from Reception up to Year 6. We encourage parents to support us with fostering a love of reading through helping their children to access a variety of reading experiences as well as their school reading book.

We also recognise the value of quality time spent outside of school with family and friends and the importance of children having the time needed to access the outdoors, hobbies, rest and socialise. Therefore, we strive to find a balance between allowing children to develop their learning further at home and ensuring children have the opportunity to relax, look after their mental health and well-being and enjoy being children! Therefore, the

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expected time taken to complete any given task has been reviewed and reduced where appropriate. As stated earlier, all children have access to additional voluntary online learning if they or their parents would like to undertake. Please contact your child's class teacher if you require another copy of your login details.

To simplify the process, all homework will now be given out on a Thursday and should be returned to school by the following Wednesday. This provides children and families with a variety of times to choose when it is best for them to complete the activities.

Reading Books for children following the RWI Phonics scheme (Reception – Year 2 and some Year 3 children) are given out each week according to the Phonics group they are in (either on a 3 day or 5 day schedule).

Reading books in other year groups are given out weekly on a set day according to the availability of the Teaching Assistant to change the books.

The updated homework policy can be found on the policy section of the school website.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. E. Flood
Headteacher

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