



Homework at Clapgate

Approved by: Headteacher

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Every child will read at home

Every Friday the children at Clapgate take home an Oxford Reading tree book and their reading record book. Parents are expected to listen to their child read this book over the coming week (or the stated number of chapters for much longer, higher stage books) and sign their reading record book to let us know they have read it. All reading books and reading record books should be returned every Thursday. All teachers then change every child's book on a Thursday night and send a new book home on Friday each week. This process is repeated every week. Therefore, Thursday is the only night they don't have their book at home.

If a child hasn't managed to read their book over the week, the teacher can ask the child to read their book during break or lunch time on the Thursday or Friday so that no child ever gets behind. This will ensure that every child has the chance to become a brilliant reader. If the book is not returned on Thursday morning parent's will get a phone call to remind them to bring it in during the day or after school.

Spelling

Throughout the year every child will bring home sets of spellings to learn. These spellings form the new National Curriculum. The spellings for each year group are taken from spelling patterns and from the list of common exception words (as listed in the curriculum). All children in each class will be working on the same spellings and these will be taught regularly throughout the week in short bursts. In the first week, children should try to learn as many words as she or he can. The children are then tested on a Thursday; they are aware of which ones they still need to practise. The spellings that they get right on the first week will be highlighted so parents know which ones their children already know. On Thursday of the second week the children will repeat the test and see if they can beat their previous score. The children then receive a new set of spellings for the two-week cycle to start again.

This spelling system is designed to support all children's progress and ensure that they have more opportunities to learn the spellings for their year group. Spelling record books are returned to school every Thursday. Parents refer to this book to find out which words their children spell correctly in the test and which words still need to be learnt.

Times tables

In Years 2-6 there is a weekly tables test (every Thursday). On Friday, the children are told which table to focus on for the following week, which they will start practising in their times table session on a Friday. The children will only move on to the next table when they have got full marks on the previous times table test. Children have access to similar times tables tests at home through the school website. Certificates are then presented in Friday morning assembly for reaching the various stages of the times table mountain. When a child plants the flag on the summit a calculator is rewarded.

At Clapgate we follow a 'Mountain Profile' building up the times tables in a methodical and progressive format, ensuring that the children revise and retain the facts they have learnt along the journey. The children have a folder with their Mountain Profile and times table tests so that they

can track their progress and know what they are working on. Children's progress through the times table mountain is shared with parents through their times table homework book. When a child reaches the summit, they then try to improve their time on earlier tests to increase the speed of their recall, either by completing all earlier tests or by completing the 'Seven Summits' challenge.

The complete set of times tables can be found on our school website (key dates> curriculum). To practise these at home parents simply open the file, press F9 to generate a new test and then print. This allows unlimited tests to be generated.

Maths

Children in years 2-6 receive a weekly piece of maths homework in addition to the expectation that they practise their times tables at home.

Projects

Teachers decide on any additional projects they want to ask the children to work on at home. This could be a short weekly task or a choice of tasks to be completed over a longer period of time. We would like to stress that at Clapgate this homework is not compulsory. Teachers can decide how they want to reward the children who complete this project homework.

This homework can be related to any topic/project/subject the children are learning in class. Teachers need to ensure it is something everyone can do.

Ideas could include the following:

- To learn a poem
- Draw a picture
- Label a picture or diagram
- A fact sheet about...
- A poster about...
- Draw a map e.g. Route to school
- Write out or follow a recipe
- Create a piece of artwork on a theme e.g. Autumn, Bonfire night
- Draw a treasure island map
- Build a model
- Create a booklet

The homework should be fun, interesting, related to the children's learning in class and relevant for their age!

The homework task is displayed in the classroom to remind parents/children of the task.