

Lickey Hills Primary School & Nursery

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October 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

The staff and I have been reviewing our home learning expectations and we have made some small but significant changes to share with you. The decision to change the home learning approach is based on changes to the way we teach.

We believe that home learning is essential for your child's education because practising learning helps to make it 'stick' in the long term memory.

We teach in sequences of learning, by editing, redrafting and focussing on quality and accuracy we have seen some excellent 'final' pieces of writing across all year groups and abilities. Children consistently leave Lickey Hills with standards above national figures. In 2017 the school was in the top 20% nationally for outcomes in reading and writing. **We want to sustain and build on this by asking for your support in ensuring regular reading and spelling practice at home so your child becomes more fluent and confident in reading and writing.**

The school introduced 'Maths No Problem' two years ago to replicate a similar approach in maths. Just like literacy, lessons are broken down into small connected steps that gradually unfold. By placing emphasis on practising, revisiting and over learning, new skills and knowledge will become thoroughly embedded and transferable across other areas of the curriculum, in real life and in future learning. Children are making good improvements in their maths reasoning as a result of this approach to teaching. **We want to sustain and build on this by asking for your support in ensuring fluency and rapid recall of number bonds and times tables practice at home so your child becomes more fluent and confident in maths.**

Home Learning - How You Can Help your Child:

- ❖ Good attendance and punctuality is essential as lessons are sequential and build on the previous learning.
- ❖ Develop good home learning habits - regularly encourage and practise the areas below
- ❖ Remind children the more you do something the better you get at it and encourage them to focus on their 'personal best'

Home Learning Expectations 2019

1. **Reading** - a minimum of three times a week read with your child, signature required on reading record books (KS1) record sheets (KS2). This will be checked weekly by the teacher. We ask you to read and discuss what has been read, encourage reading with pace and fluency (a key part of our assessments at the end of each year as well as the statutory assessments at the end of Year 2 and Year 6). Enjoy reading and share ideas and opinions about characters, plot and predictions.
2. **Phonics and Spelling** - daily practice, little and often - the class teachers will provide you with the statutory spelling word list for Y1- Y6* as appropriate and phonic spellings linked to their learning that week. Children are expected to apply their spelling in their everyday writing so your help in practising these at home really benefits your child.

**If children cannot spell the words on the statutory list in their everyday writing then national curriculum assessment guidelines state they cannot meet the expected standard in their writing at the end of Year 2 and Year 6.*

3. **Maths*** - Home learning in maths will be starting from the week beginning 14th October.

To be super successful, children will need to have quick and accurate mental recall of number facts so home learning (linked to class teaching) will be focused around **number bonds in KS1 and times tables and associated division facts for KS2**. Year 6 will additionally have challenges sent home to support their preparation for the end of primary assessments.

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Year 3 and 4 Parents Note: There are new statutory times table tests at the end of Year 4 so your help in practising these at home is important as the Year 5 and Year 6 curriculum in maths expects your child to be fluent in recalling facts quickly up to 12x12.

**Maths Tasks will be set and handed out on Mondays, to mirror spelling routines and should not take long to complete. Children will be expected to complete their maths tasks and will be asked to catch up during break or lunchtimes if they haven't.*

Optional tasks - As many of you enjoyed the project based learning with your children, class teachers will also provide an optional task for children to complete with you linked to the class theme. Your child's teacher will let you know where you can find this. If you do choose to do this we would love you to bring it in to school so please continue to bring in your learning to share with the class.

Thank you as always for your commitment to the school and your support of our ambitions for your children.

Yours in learning,

Miss A. L. Salisbury
Headteacher

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