



Alfred Street Junior School

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Dear Parents/Carers,

As a result of Covid-19 and the Department of Education's drive to provide quality online learning, we have looked at how best to provide homework in the current climate.

We continue to ask that you listen to your child read **at least** three times a week and record this in their Reading Record. We give a Dojo to each child who reads four or more times a week and two Dojos for those that read seven times a week. Furthermore, each read that is recorded in their Reading Record counts towards their Reading Karate total so that they can work towards the next Reading Karate band.

We also ask that you continue to support your child with learning their times tables as these feature in so many areas of the maths curriculum. Those children who have speedy recall of these facts often have more confidence and achieve greater success in many areas of maths.

Topic homework will continue to be provided and will be outlined in the curriculum newsletters you receive each term.

Our focus will now be on providing homework assignments that are specifically set through our school subscriptions such as Spelling Shed, Maths Shed and Purple Mash. The children are familiar with these online platforms as we use them regularly in school and were utilised during the latest lockdown. They are interactive and engaging and will allow us to differentiate the homework to the different levels of need for the children. They also provide the children with instant feedback as to whether they are being successful and enable the teachers to monitor the progress that they are making.

We will be ensuring that all children can access the home learning and we will be working with families to put things in place for those that need additional support - we have a limited number of devices that we can loan out to children should they not have access to a device at home. Please contact the school to request support with IT. Part of this support will be to operate a Homework Club in school to allow children to complete the work they are required to do - if they are unable to do this at home.

We feel that homework should not be a chore, but children should see it as an extension of their schoolwork and as a really positive way of raising their level of attainment. We also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development.

We do not specify amounts of time that must be spent on a particular task, preferring individual families to set their own routines. However, we are happy to give advice on this as required.

Although we are moving to provide more online homework assignments, this is not to say that more formal written tasks will not be included in homework as, on occasions, the teacher may deem these to be more suitable to the objectives being covered.

If we can be of any help, please contact us at school and we will do our best to support you,

Thank you for your ongoing support in these difficult times,

Yours faithfully,

Mr C Butler (Deputy Head Teacher)

Create - Learn - Progress
There is no limit!