

Dear Parent

1 October 2020



*Improvement, Nurture, Success, Potential
Innovation, Responsibility, Endeavour*

CURRICULUM INFORMATION - HOMEWORK – PARENTS' MEETINGS

When school started back after the summer we did not set homework for the children except for those P7s who will be sitting the AQE/GL Tests. We felt it best to give the children time to settle back into school after such a long absence.

After almost six weeks we have judged the time is right to begin setting homework again more generally.

Safety is really important and so homework will generally be organised so that paper items going home do not need to be sent back into class and any that does come back will be quarantined for 72+ hours.

Parental Involvement – Homework always has the best impact on a child's learning if the parent/carer takes an interest, supports and shows the child that homework is important and valued.

This is even more critical now as we all work together in these challenging times. A key component will be the need for you to help your child by reviewing his/her work and in some cases 'marking' it with the key provided by the teacher. Your child's class teacher will let you know what you need to do.

Homework – From 6 October Next week is a shorter week – with pupils off on Monday and so from 6 October there will be three elements to the homework – Spellings / Number Facts / Reading. There will be variations in the formats between different classes / key stages. This may include online activities such as **Numbots** or **Times Tables Rockstars**, **Bug Club** - our reading scheme and **Renaissance Reading Quizzes**.

Written Homework – From 12 October The classes will be starting written homework. This may be a mix of paper or online including **Bug Club** activities and **Purple Mash**.

Communication between school and home

Good communication between parents and teachers has always been very important – a major change with Covid has been that we must use socially distanced methods to keep in contact.

Email - We want to keep your links with teachers as close as possible and so you will have received your teacher's C2K email address. Please email if you want to let us know something or have a concern you wish to discuss with the teacher. The email will be responded to but bear in mind the teacher is teaching during the school day and may not access the emails until after class.

Do not email with time-critical / emergency information but phone the school office on 028 44613934.

My email is: nstevenson717@c2kni.net - If you wish to contact me directly.

Parent/Teacher Consultations We normally hold these in October but we are pushing these back to February. There are a number of reasons for this. This school year is very different – it is a Re-Start year. The children have missed a lot of school last year and the teachers are working on recovering and catching up on the teaching and learning that was missed.

The additional time before the consultations will allow the staff to better inform you of your child's strengths and areas to develop.

The Covid guidance means that face-to-face meetings are not judged to be safe and the recent increase in Covid cases in the local area bears this out. We do not want to take any additional risks which might lead to further cases. However, if you have a particular concern, you are very welcome to email or phone the school and we will arrange a phone call with your child's teacher.

Google Classroom was a very effective tool to manage the online learning through Lockdown and we have this year's 'Classes' ready to go 'Live' if there is an interruption to normal teaching. More information will go home about this when necessary.

Finally, could I thank you all again as parents for your efforts in these very difficult times.

Yours sincerely

Niall Stevenson