

Saint Mary's Catholic Primary School



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RE: Homework at St Mary's

Dear Parents

I have recently been made aware that some of you are concerned because you think we have abandoned homework. I am writing to you to put your minds at rest. There have been changes but they are small. Our homework policy lays out the homework we are expecting:

<http://www.smi.hounslow.sch.uk/letters-and-updates/homework-policy-2019.pdf> please have a look. Here's the breakdown:

Reception	<p>After October half term: Children have a phonics book and new sounds and tricky words are added weekly. Once children start blending, they will bring home a reading book and a reading record which should be signed by parents once a week to say that their child has read at home. Children can read and share books with an adult every day. A library book will be sent home on a weekly basis (from October for Reception).</p> <p>When they are ready, Nursery will bring home a library book for you to share together.</p>
Key Stage 1	Children will be given a list of spellings to learn each week which follow the phonics or spelling patterns taught in their groups or words linked to the curriculum. They will be encouraged to learn the pattern not only the individual words. They will be encouraged to use these words and words with the same spelling pattern in their writing.
Y1 and 2	Children are expected to read daily for at least 10 minutes at home with an adult. The Home Reading Diary should be completed each time. Maths Passports can be supported at home (from the summer term in Y1).
Key Stage 2	Children will be given a list of spellings to learn each week which follow the phonics or spelling patterns taught in their groups or words linked to the curriculum. They will be encouraged to learn the pattern not only the individual words. They will be encouraged to use these words and words with the same spelling pattern in their writing.
Y3 to Y6	Children are expected to read daily for between 15 minutes to half an hour, at home with an adult. Learning of multiplication facts (timetables) will be ongoing. Maths Passports can be supported at home.

You will see that we have removed 'My Maths' and we have removed the Learning Logs. Everything else remains in place as before. Reading, spellings, Maths Passports and times tables remain. In place of the Learning Logs parents of children in Years 3-6 can use the history and geography knowledge planners (on the class pages of our website) to investigate learning with their children. We are investigating knowledge planners for KS1 and the teachers have put together Lesson Maps for Y1 and Y2. These are on the class pages too as are the medium term overview (plan) and the Termly Newsletters outlining the learning for all areas across the three terms.

I have made these changes because I believe they are in-line with our long-standing emphasis on the growth and development of the whole child. My decision has been informed by the parental consultation, a nationally re-found focus on the need to foster and protect children's mental health, the need to continue to work towards teacher workload reduction and the recently published Relationship Education guidance (draft in summer 2018) with an update in February 2019:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/781150/Draft_guidance_Relationships_Education_Relationships_and_Sex_Education_RSE_and_Health_Education2.pdf

I outlined my reasons for these small changes to our policy in the newsletter of 15th February 2019:

<http://www.smi.hounslow.sch.uk/school-newsletters/15th-february-2019.pdf>.

These changes are very much the direction I feel that schools should be moving in.

If you want your child to complete more work at home you might like to visit WH Smiths where you can buy work books for children of all ages.

Yours sincerely

F Marsh