



15.09.2020 HT's Update for families – Homework Consultation and Information re timescale

Good afternoon families.

I hope you have all had a good start to the week.

I just wanted to get in touch to remind you about contributing to our homework consultation if you haven't already. It is really important for us to get opinions from our parent community across the school so please make sure you share your thoughts.

On that note, I would like to apologise for any confusion my previous communications may have caused.

I believe that some parents and carers felt disappointed by the initial steps we took to ask families to engage with reading for enjoyment and SUMdog activities. I would like to highlight that this was always intended to be a first step whilst we finalised our homework model after consultation.

I apologise if that was not clear.

Further to this, I do not think I gave you enough information about why it has taken us until now to finalise our model. The staff and management team are under huge pressure just now with regards to the ever changing guidelines and the impact this has on the learning and teaching provision in the classroom. This has taken a period of adjustment.

With the children having been away from school during the closure the teachers have spent a great deal of time carrying out baseline assessments to establish at what point your child is at in their learning and identify any gaps. Having to do this whilst the physical distancing guidelines are in place has been extremely challenging.

Hand in hand with this difficulty is that anything the children touch has to be left for a 72-hour isolation period before their teacher can look at it.

All of this together has meant that processes which would normally come very naturally to our teachers and staff and having to be given much more careful thought and consideration. This of course takes time.

In addition to this the staff have been finalising the class TEAMS' pages, their 'Meet the Teacher' videos and setting up their Twitter pages. All of these will improve and increase our engagement with parents and carers, so we need to make sure we have set them up properly.

Whilst you may feel some frustration at the lack of homework currently, please be assured that all of your children are working hard in school, building on their core literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing skills.

I will be sending out a letter to families on the 22nd of September which lays out our Homework model for this initial period.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me through the usual channels of the phone or admin email account. I always value hearing from you.

Take care, keep well and stay in touch.

Anna

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