

Dear parents and carers,

Last half term was great for settling our pupils into their new classes and focusing on starting what will hopefully be the first 'full' school year in recent times. This half term we want to ensure that we build on this. In school, we have identified several areas for development this year which will focus on Reading, Writing, Maths and the sequencing and development of our wider curriculum as well as relaunching our home learning.

Below is a summary of our home learning policy. Two elements in particular that I would like to emphasise are reading and basic number fact learning.

- Reading is the single best thing you can do with your child. Whether they read a school book to you, you take turns reading a shared book or you read them a storybook above their own reading level: reading matters. This is equally important for pupils who need additional support and those who are confident readers.
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- Knowing basic number facts is a foundation of maths learning. Knowing and being able to recall at speed, bonds to 10 ($1+9=10$) and timetables allows pupils to focus on other concepts and maths objectives without having to 'work out' simple calculations. This working out takes time, often leads to small errors and can distract from other learning. Numbots and TTRs are both wonderful tools for doing this that our pupils have access to.

Home Learning (Home Work)

Reception

- Parents and carers are encouraged to share books together, with a reading book sent home to be read daily and recorded in the pupil's reading records.
- Home phonics packs are sent home for daily practice on specific sounds (details of these are emailed weekly).
- Maths work may also be sent home once a week.

Years 1 & 2

- Up to 1 hour per week, not including reading.
- This work can be made up of Spelling/ Phonics, other English and Maths work or topic work.
- Reading at home 4 or 5 times a week for 10/15 minutes; this can include online reading such as Bug club. Please record all home reading in pupil's reading record.
- Home phonics packs are sent home for daily practice on specific sounds (details of these are emailed regularly).
- Pupils work through games on Numbots. Ideally 5-minute sessions 4 or 5 times a week.

Years 3 & 4

- 1.5 hours per week which will include Reading, Spelling, other English and Maths work with occasional tasks in other subjects.
- Reading at home, which may include online reading activities (bug club or read theory). Ideally, daily reading, but at least 3 times recorded on their reading log.
- Additional phonics or maths work may also be set for groups or individuals as needed.
- Weekly Timestable Rock Stars sessions (or Numbots if more appropriate) 15 minutes per week set by class teacher.

Year 5

- Ideally daily reading but at least 3 times recorded on their reading log.
- Up to 1 hour 30 minutes weekly as below:
 - Tuesdays - Timestable Rockstars set by class teacher

- Wednesdays - Reading Comprehension
- Thursday - Maths/ SPaG activities

Year 6

- Ideally daily reading but at least 3 times recorded on their reading log.
- Up to 2 hours weekly as below:
 - Monday - SPaG
 - Tuesday - Reading Comprehension
 - Wednesday - Maths
 - Thursday – Topic
 - TTRs – at any time, set by the class teacher

Homework should be returned the next day in Year 5 and 6

Reading Records/Logs

Pupils in Reception, Year 1 and 2 will all have an individual reading record. This will should come to school each day. Please record the date and book title that you read with your child. Comments can be made and are welcomed, but we really just want to know how frequently you are reading with your child at home.

Pupils in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 will all bring home a reading log. This is a simplified version of the reading record. The log is simply a way of recording when home reading has been completed and just needs to be signed and dated.

Parents and homework

We value the support of parents and carers with regards to homework, and whilst we do not wish parents to complete their child's homework for them, we are very happy for parents to support and assist their child as required and to provide encouragement. Any attempt at homework is valued and it will most often be the case that the work that comes home is something that has been covered in class.

This term we will be monitoring home learning for all our pupils closely and looking to help parents, carers and pupils establish clear and consistent routines for this. It is our aim that over their time at Manston Primary, we do our best to prepare our pupils for their next stage in education. We want our approach to home learning to support key elements of pupils' learning **and** prepare them for what comes next by gradually building the amount of home learning and the level of independence when completing this.

If you have any questions about your child's homework, please speak to their class teacher in the first instance. However, if you wish to discuss our overall approach to home learning please contact the school office to make an appointment with myself.

Kind regards,

James Clay
Head Teacher