

# Homework –

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2019



Mrs Slater



Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome back to a brave, new academic year!

The first week back in September is always a bit of a strange one – especially as the timing of the school day has changed with the new academic year and we all need to get used to it. Children now come into class at 8.30am and we finish at 3.30pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday – and we have lost five minutes from each lunchtime; all of which means that we teach longer now, despite finishing school at 1.10 on Wednesday afternoon.

I truly believe that both children and staff will benefit from these changes: without a doubt, the ability to allow teachers guaranteed planning time *together* is going to improve what we deliver. At the same time, a midweek break should benefit children and invigorate them and keep them fresh for the whole week.

Those children who stay at school on Wednesday afternoon will have a nice time: we will have PE to offer them and an Art session as well as a DVD session so that they can choose between. We will also be listening to what they would like to do – some were asking about using iPads to practise their times tables, so I am sure that we can accommodate them, especially as we have quite a few staff who can work with them.

It is at this time of the year that we think especially of all the possibilities that stretch out before our children in the coming months. Yesterday, I approved a letter going to parents of children in Reception, reminding them of their role in helping their children to become confident readers. One of the greatest things that we can do is *read with our children*: share the joy of words and stories and allow children the excitement of engaging in a shared activity. Last night, I read 'Dogger' with Jude (it's a lovely story by Shirley Hughes). I have read this book with Jude lots of times, but he still finds pleasure in it and we can talk about the story and about things that come out of the story (like the grief of losing a favourite toy.) That reading experience is *extremely valuable for young children* – and we would all appeal to parents to make sure they *read with their children*. In Reception last year, teachers noted how often parents read with children over a school year and it varied from fewer than ten times (reading with a child once every three or four weeks ☹) to 160 + times ☺. I think that anyone can see that the child read with 160 times is much more likely to thrive than a child who might be read with once every three or four weeks...We are sure that every parent wants the best for their child and this is one of the ways in which we can ensure that.

**Please use the comment box below to write anything you have to say about the homework or about any other school issues...**

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| Signed: |

**Please make sure that your child's medical details and emergency contact numbers are with the office and up-to-date.**