

7 November 2014

Dear Parents

I hope you and children have had an enjoyable half term. Last half term went so quickly and I am sure this one will too! As usual, we have a very busy half term with the run up to Christmas.

Homework tips

A few parents have asked for some clarification about how to help their child complete the homework. I hope that the top tips below may help. These are from the healthy kids section of the NHS website:

1. **Set up a homework-friendly area.** Make sure kids have a well-lit place to complete homework. Keep supplies — paper, pencils, glue, scissors — within reach.
2. **Help them make a plan.** On heavy homework nights or when there's an especially hefty assignment to tackle, encourage your child break up the work into manageable chunks. Create a work schedule for the night if necessary — and take time for a 15-minute break every hour, if possible.
3. **Keep distractions to a minimum.** This means no TV, loud music, or phone calls.
4. **Make sure kids do their own work.** They won't learn if they don't think for themselves and make their own mistakes. Parents **can make suggestions and help with directions**. But it's a kid's job to do the learning
5. **Be a motivator and monitor.** Ask about assignments, quizzes, and tests. Give encouragement, **check completed homework and help them improve or correct work once they have tried for themselves**, and make yourself available for questions and concerns.
6. **Praise their work and efforts**

Homework will also be sent home on a **Monday** and this should be handed in on a **Friday**. The same presentation applies as at school. There will be Maths and Literacy homework sent home. Also, please could you help your child with their times tables and hear your son/daughter read regularly.

PE this half term will be Gymnastics. They will still need trainers in their locker throughout the half term in order to make full use of the outdoor facilities. Children will need their kit in school at all times as sometimes we have coaches in school therefore need to be prepared for these sessions also.

Please could I remind you how important it is that your child has indoor shoes at school in order to keep the inside of the school looking clean and tidy. These should also be **labelled** so that we can locate them quickly and could I ask you to make sure your child's uniform is also fully labelled.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Millar