

St Mary & St John CE Primary School

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Tuesday 13th September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Homework at Mary & John

Homework can sometimes be a contentious issue, for some families there is too little homework, for others, too much. At Mary and John, we want to support learning at home as best we can. Homework will be linked to the work that children are engaging with in school, with the aim of consolidating learning and, for some, adding an element of further challenge where teachers deem this appropriate.

To support learning at home your child has access to Purple Mash. A bank of resources specifically tailored to the National Curriculum, it provides content for teachers to set children which are relevant to current learning in school. Teachers are also able to upload work of their own. As a resource being used in school children will be able to access it easily at home. If you have any questions regarding access or use of this home learning resource, please speak to your child's class teacher. Purple Mash itself also provides online support for parents/pupils.



Below is an outline of the school's homework plans for the coming academic year:

- Every child will have a **Purple Mash** username and login.
- Weekly Maths, Reading and Spelling work will be set by Class Teachers. Children will be able to see their results immediately and teachers are able to track progress and adapt teaching if more support is required.
- Purple Mash will be monitored regularly by class teachers.
- Every term some classes will **bring home a short story to learn and retell**. This may be in the form of a story map. This is to build up confidence with speaking to an audience as well as supporting language development for reading and writing. Other classes may be working on a novel so it may not be appropriate to learn and retell.
- **Daily reading** is highly recommended. This may be set on Purple Mash, but we also very much encourage real books!
- **Times Table Rockstars**: We are introducing a challenge element to encourage learning of times tables so that children become confident and fluent up to their x12 tables.
- **Year 6 will get additional homework** to prepare for their assessment tests which are in May every year. The class teachers will recommend practice books.
- Some children **who are receiving extra help in school for English and Maths may get specific tasks** to practise at home to support work done in school. This may also be set via Purple Mash.
- Some classes may get a **piece of writing** set as a holiday task, or Topic work linked to learning in school may also be set.



Let all that you do be done in love...

1 Corinthians 16:14

School will not set project work, however, if your children have a genuine enthusiasm for a topic and want to do something independently, we will be delighted to share and celebrate it at school.

Talking to your children about school is vital. The 'What did you do at school today?' with the stock response 'nothing' can be frustrating but it is surprising what children come out with at unexpected moments!

We want our children to be motivated, confident, independent learners. We hope that reading fluently, spelling accurately, recalling times tables facts quickly, retelling stories with confidence and following up natural interests will contribute to this.

We hope you find this to be an approach to homework which is clear, consistent and manageable.

With many thanks for your support,



Headteacher



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