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Dear Parents and Carers,

Our staff have recently worked hard to identify the effectiveness of homework and, after discussions at staff meetings and reading wider research that has been undertaken, we have made some decisions regarding homework at St Joseph's. The new homework policy will be available to view on our school website and sets out the clear expectations for each Key Stage.

Our major focus is for children at St Joseph's to develop their core skills and, twice per year, immerse themselves in a project with their parents, carers, grandparents, siblings or friends that is linked to their current learning topic in class.

The core skills are vitally important. These are reading, spelling and basic number facts. The emphasis of our new homework expectations will be on children to read regularly, practise the spellings set for them weekly and practise their One Minute Maths challenges weekly. In addition, there will be maths activities set for children on Mathletics as well as Times Tables Rock Stars.

There will be additional homework challenges available via the school website where a range of challenges will be set on a half termly basis. They will range from Foundation to Year 6 but **will not be compulsory**.

Due to the different expectations in Year 6, there will be additional homework throughout the year to help prepare the children for their SATs and to prepare them for what awaits in secondary school. Their additional homework will be shared with parents via the school website, letters home and at parents' evening. Should you have any questions regarding homework, please don't hesitate in contacting your class teacher.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mr M Dyson

Deputy Head Teacher