



# Valley Primary School

GROWING AND LEARNING TOGETHER TO BE THE BEST WE CAN BE !

ASPIRE...ENJOY...ACHIEVE...CHALLENGE !

Head Teacher: Miss S. Milewski

[office@valley.solihull.sch.uk](mailto:office@valley.solihull.sch.uk)

Tel: 0121 743 4691

Old Lode Lane, Solihull, B92 8LW (KS2 site).

Fallowfield Road, Solihull, B92 9HQ (EYFS and KS1 site).

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you to the parents who have provided feedback regarding our home learning activities. We have spent considerable time reviewing your feedback and really appreciate your thoughts. We have also taken feedback from staff and children regarding how home learning activities worked last year.

Following the feedback, we plan to make some changes to our activities. The most significant of which is that we set a specific piece of homework each week linked directly to class learning. This will be in the form of Maths homework from Year 2 to Year 6 and in the form of Phonics homework for Year 1.

Please find below a summary of our home learning expectations:

COMPULSORY WEEKLY HOME LEARNING ACTIVITIES:	OPTIONAL/ OCCASIONALLY SET HOME LEARNING ACTIVITIES :
Reading - 3 times per week (3 x 10 mins)	Topic Home Learning
Spellings - 3 times per week (3 x 5 mins)	Life Skills Activities
KIRF Maths Key Skill - 3 times per week (3 x 5 mins)	Curious Challenges and Brain Boosters
Class linked work – weekly (30 mins)	Time Tables Rock Stars
	Supplementary Targeted Work
	Real Life Maths/ Transition Holiday Activities
	Valley Website links and Activities
	Valley Competitions

The above will be explained in detail during our Curriculum Evenings. A more detailed explanation of each activity is also attached to this letter for your information.

May I also remind you that we offer a homework club for children in Year 1 to Year 6 if your child does not have access to a device and/or finds concentrating at home difficult. We also have some capacity to support with children borrowing equipment should they require, please contact school to discuss.

We will also give opportunity at breaks/ lunch for children who need to catch up on the compulsory home learning tasks so they don't fall behind with their learning if they cannot complete it at home or attend homework club one week.

Thank you for your continued support as we work together to support our children's learning. We hope this combination of home learning activities provides opportunity for our children to develop key skills whilst not overwhelming them and allowing them to enjoy being children!

Yours sincerely

*S. J. Milewski*

Miss Milewski.  
Headteacher.

# **VALLEY HOME LEARNING INFORMATION FOR PARENTS**



## **HOME LEARNING ACTIVITIES (COMPULSORY)**

### **ENGLISH KEY SKILLS PRACTICE.**

Reading– it is crucial your child reads most nights. This can just be a small amount but will really help them develop their skills and widen their vocabulary and understanding. It is very helpful if you can ask them to discuss their reading or ask them specific questions about what they have read. It is also important your child reads for pleasure or hears stories read to them which they enjoy alongside their specific targeted reading books. Rewards will be given at various points for reaching specific milestones.

**WE ASK EVERY CHILD TO READ AT LEAST 3 TIMES PER WEEK FOR A MINIMUM OF 10 MINUTES EACH TIME AND FOR THIS TO BE NOTED IN THEIR READING DIARIES.**

Spellings - it is vital your child practises these to develop their vocabulary skills, accuracy and confidence when writing / decoding.

Spelling sheets will be sent out each half term for **Year 1 to Year 6**. Children will be placed in Spelling Group A or Spelling Group B. The expectation is children learn their weekly spelling rule at home and school. They need to practise both reading and spelling words, alongside practising their 'Wizard Words' or 'Tricky Words' which are the focus common exception words for their year group.

In school, teachers focus on these spelling rules for that particular week. On a Friday, children have the opportunity to apply 5 of the 10 learnt words to dictated sentences.

At the end of each half term, we assess the children's progress in learning their Wizard Words.

**WE ASK EVERY CHILD TO PRACTISE THEIR SPELLINGS/ PHONICS/ WIZARD WORDS IN DIFFERENT WAYS AT LEAST 3 TIMES PER WEEK FOR A MINIMUM OF 5 MINUTES EACH TIME.**

**In Reception, Year 1 and for some Year 2** children, an additional phonics sheet will be sent home to practise each sound.

**WE ASK EVERY CHILD TO PRACTISE THIS DAILY AND REWARDS WILL BE GIVEN FOR COMPLETING THIS/ LEARNING THE SOUND. THIS SHOULD TAKE APPROXIMATELY 15 MINUTES IN TOTAL SPLIT ACROSS THE WEEK.**

### **MATHS KEY SKILLS PRACTICE.**

KIRFs – Key Instant Recall Facts. Each half term, we choose different instant recall facts to focus on. We test the children at the start and the end of the half term and hope to see an improvement. We use the 6 second rule set by the government for the Time Tables Test to define whether recall is instant so please do encourage your child to answer quickly.

**WE ASK EVERY CHILD TO PRACTISE THEIR KIRF AT REGULAR INTERVALS THROUGHOUT THE WEEK RESULTING IN A MINIMUM OF 15 MINUTES PRACTISE WITH THIS.**

## **SPECIFIC TARGETED SKILL HOME LEARNING LINKED TO CLASS LEARNING.**

Children will be set a specific piece of homework each week linked to work they are doing in class.

It will be set on a Monday and must be completed by the following Monday. We will set the first piece on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September with a due date of Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October which will give time for us to introduce the system with parents during Curriculum Evenings and with all the children in class.

**In Year 2 – Year 6** this will be Maths based using Collins Maths which links directly with the White Rose structure which we follow. Your child will be given their log in details and shown how to access this in class plus, we will demonstrate this to parents during our Curriculum Evenings. A new piece of work will be set each week and children who do not complete the activity by the Monday will be asked to complete a similar activity at break time so they do not miss out on practising their key skills.

**In Year 1** this will be based on our Read Write Inc Phonics scheme using our eLibrary. A separate letter will be sent home with your child's log in details. We will also demonstrate this during our Curriculum Evenings. (This will also be accessible to Reception when they start to blend and Year 2 until they move from Read Write Inc.)

In addition to the above, optional recap and/or challenge activities will be allocated using Collins Maths for Year 1 children immediately and for Year 2 to Year 6 children after half term once they are used to the program.

**WE EXPECT EVERY CHILD TO SPEND 30 MINUTES EACH WEEK ON THIS ACTIVITY, THIS CAN BE IN ONE SESSION OR SPLIT INTO TWO.**

***PLEASE NOTE: THIS TOTALS 1 HOUR 30 MINUTES HOME LEARNING TIME PER WEEK.***

## **HOME LEARNING ACTIVITIES (OPTIONAL)**

### **WIDER CURRICULUM AND LIFE SKILLS HALF TERMLY ACTIVITIES:**

- 1) Topic Home Learning Projects – A choice of suggested cross curricular tasks will be sent home at the beginning of each topic. Please encourage your child to complete as many tasks as possible including a minimum of one per continent to enable them to travel around the world each half term.

**WE ENCOURAGE ALL CHILDREN TO BRING IN THEIR WORK FOR THEIR CLASS TO CELEBRATE ON A FRIDAY. EACH PIECE OF COMPLETED WORK WILL BE REWARDED WITH ONE ENTRY INTO THE BIG PRIZE DRAW.**

**EACH CHILD WHO TRAVELS AROUND THE WORLD WITHIN THE HALF TERM WILL RECEIVE 10 ADDITIONAL ENTRIES FOR THE BIG PRIZE DRAW. THE MORE ENTRIES YOUR CHILD GETS THE MORE CHANCE THEY HAVE OF WINNING IN OUR END OF THE YEAR BIG PRIZE DRAW.**

**THIS YEAR, ONE CHILD FROM EACH CLASS WILL ALSO BE CHOSEN FOR A 'HEADTEACHER'S AFTERNOON TEA' WHERE THEY WILL JOIN MISS MILEWSKI FOR HOT CHOCOLATE, SQUASH AND A SWEET TREAT. THIS WILL BE A CHILD WHO HAS MADE A SPECIAL EFFORT THAT HALF TERM AND IMPRESSED THEIR TEACHER.**

2) Life Skills Activities – A focus Life Skill will be set each half term and your child is encouraged to try and show this during the half term.

**WE ENCOURAGE ALL CHILDREN TO BRING IN EVIDENCE OF THIS FOR THEIR CLASS TO CELEBRATE ON A FRIDAY.**

**EACH HALF TERM A CHILD WILL BE CHOSEN AS THE LIFE SKILLS CHAMPION FOR THE CLASS. THE WINNER WILL RECEIVE A GOLD STAR PIN BADGE.**

3) Curious Challenges and Brain Boosters – As part of our Feel Good Friday, a suggested Curious Challenge and Brain Booster are set each week for your child to choose to complete at home if they wish. We also set one Deeper Thinking Question each week. These all focus on good Mental Health.

**WE ENCOURAGE ALL CHILDREN TO BRING IN EVIDENCE OF THIS FOR THEIR CLASS TO CELEBRATE ON A FRIDAY.**

**EACH TERM A CHILD WILL BE CHOSEN AS THE MENTAL HEALTH CHAMPION FOR THE CLASS. THE WINNER WILL RECEIVE A SMILEY FACE PIN BADGE.**

### **HOME LEARNING ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES AND LINKS (OPTIONAL)**

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY TARGETED WORK:**

Groups of children, specific year groups and individuals may be given specific targeted work at certain times of the year. This will be communicated with parents individually and may include specific SATs practise, individual target work from Needs Based plans etc.

#### **TIME TABLES ROCK STARS (TTRS):**

TTRS (which many children enjoyed accessing the last few years) will still be available. This will be for children to access when they are learning specific times tables and is encouraged as it enables them to practise their skills in a fun way and, in particular prepare for the Times Tables check they do in Year 4.

#### **REAL LIFE MATHS / TRANSITION HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES:**

Each break, a practical holiday activity focusing on Real Life Maths will be set following their learning in Maths in class. This will aim to allow application of school learning in a practical real life setting.

A transition project will be set each summer to help with transition. Part of this will be based on their new class name linked to different areas of the curriculum/ a British Inspirational person.

#### **COMPETITIONS:**

Periodically, competitions will be encouraged linked to special events or national days to increase awareness of particular issues or motivate the children to practise a particular skill. These will be notified via Parent Pay/ Newsletter. Please encourage your child to participate as appropriate.

#### **ACTIVITIES ON OUR SCHOOL WEBSITE:**

We also have our Children's section of our school website which has numerous home activity ideas, additional helpful information such as recommended reading and a learning zone with recommended website links. This can be accessed via the link below:

<https://www.valleyprimaryschool.co.uk/topic/children>

***PLEASE NOTE: THERE IS NO SET AMOUNT OF TIME FOR OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES AND TEACHERS WILL BE HAPPY TO SIGNPOST ADDITIONAL LINKS OR SUGGEST ACTIVITIES SHOULD YOU HAVE A SPECIFIC REQUEST FOR YOUR CHILD.***