

Home Learning Update 2

Thursday, 12th January

Dear Parents/Carers,

Amount of Home Learning

The government guidance for how much Home Learning should be provided is three hours for Year 1 and Year 2, as well as four hours for KS2.

To achieve that amount of Home Learning for some larger and/or working families seems difficult and stressful. There will be days when it can be achieved, and days when it simply can't.

To help, we will categorise the work sent via Seesaw in to 'Priority', 'Foundation Subject' and 'Additional'.

- **Priority** work is essential for the children to maintain and develop their learning and this is the recommended minimum. Regular reading is also essential.
- **Foundation Subject** work will often be fun and interactive subject based work that may engage the wider family too. This may be art, music, etc.
- **Additional** work will often use fun games from various websites, interactive activities, BBC Bitesize and Oak Academy, etc. and will be linked to your child's learning. They will either reinforce previous learning or consolidate work from that week. Teachers are exploring the best way to present Additional work so the approach may alter as the weeks go on.

In this way, as parents, you know which work is essential for the children to focus on when things get really busy at home, or if you have to squeeze work in on difficult days, etc. These key indicator words are designed for you as parents to know the best way to help your children and make informed choices. We all know if we just used the word 'Optional' many children will just opt out.

Reading - eBooks

Reading is the area that we would encourage as often as possible-at least 3 times a week. The new eBook system is up and running. You will have received the links, instructions and passwords this week alongside the exercise book for your child. Regular reading should count as 'Priority' learning. If you lose them, please contact Mr Snape on headteacher@pilsley-pri.derbyshire.sch.uk.

For Years 3 up to Year 6 - eBooks

These books are sorted in to Book Bands – all the books allocated to your child are within the same Book Band and therefore they should achieve success in reading most but not all of the text. There will be a large number of books in the band to promote choice, all of a similar level and there is no set order. We do not expect them to read every book but to choose the titles they find most interesting and motivating, including non-fiction books. So let them pick a book and then together follow the guidance we sent out in the previous newsletter. The eBook Reader can read the book for you and this is an option to use, either by listening to the page then reading it, or reading the page then checking as it reads back to you.

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Reception and Year 1 eBooks

These books will all be Big Cat Phonics Books linked directly to the school Phonics Scheme. They do have a suggested order, which we will send out via Seesaw Notices (it is too long for the School App). There may be some books in Pink 1A and 1B that are missing. These are often the ones that cause 'tongue twisting' when the children first read so we have missed them out. HarperCollins may also automatically add books we haven't listed – if you are not sure please ask your class teacher.

Please follow the directions at the beginning of the Big Cat Books – do not jump the first page, this is the MOST important page of the book. Work through this page with your child before reading the rest of the book. Let us know how it goes and teachers will support.

Year 2 eBooks

Pupils in Year 2 may have a mix of Book Banded Books and some reinforcement Big Cat Phonics books. Children with both types should alternate the types of books to support their development.

Catch-Up Reading eBooks

Some pupils will have books set by their class teacher but also some from Mrs Moore to support their reading development. Mrs Moore and our support team will be in contact about these.

Feedback

If you have any feedback please let us know via your child's Seesaw account or contact headteacher@pilsley-pri.derbyshire.ch.uk. We may not be able to fix every issue or change things to suit each and every situation but we will listen.

In addition, any positive feedback on the Home Learning we can share with the governors and teaching staff is also greatly appreciated.

Remember, be in contact if you need us. We are all working together.

Take care of yourselves.

Yours sincerely



Mr N. Snape
Headteacher and the Pilsley Staff Team