

Parents' Forum Meeting 1.5.19

Agenda: Homework

We discussed the fact that the parent questionnaire in March showed that the percentage of positive responses from Marden parents was higher than the National benchmark, except for the question, 'My child receives appropriate homework for their age,' which was slightly lower by a handful of parents.

In addition, if they disagreed, we asked whether parents believed that their child has too much or not enough homework. In previous years, this has been fairly evenly spread between these two responses. This year, there were a few more parents who felt that their children had too much homework. Where parents had included their child's class, we could see that this was not linked to a specific year group, but spread across KS1 and 2, although not consistently higher across all classes in a phase.

At the meeting, we looked at guidance and examples of home learning across each of the four phases: EYFS, KS1 (Years 1 and 2), Lower KS2 (Years 3 and 4) and Upper KS2 (Years 5 and 6). Many of the changes we have made to homework over the years have come from feedback from the Parents' Forum. The feedback from parents who attended and parents who emailed have been included below and will be passed to our Phase Leaders.

	What we like...	Even better if...
Across all phases		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please can homework go on the website each week (KS2)and termly (KS1)?
EYFS		
KS1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Links to websites. This helps parents understanding of what is expected of their child. <p><i>Parents present, with KS1 children, said they would be likely to give more specific feedback once they have used the new format currently being trialled for a few weeks.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Would be better to evidence what was read too, otherwise some parents or children will just tick/ sign without it being done. It would also help teachers to know what was being read across their class. Nowhere to write comments to show what the child has or has not understood in their reading, which is useful for teachers to know. Do the children receive house points for the maths activity? This proves to be a motivating factor for some children. If the children are not having to show their homework, it will be harder for parents to get them to complete activities. Could there be links to other websites or links to resources on the school website? This could go on the termly sheet.

KS2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good that the homework is compulsory, as this forms good habits. <i>(Transition to secondary homework was discussed.)</i> • ‘What we have been learning this week’ section is useful. • The bonus activity is a good way to add for those who want to do more • Kids don’t like spellings in sentences, but it has really helped. • Feedback for homework, or links/ activities back at school, following it up are very motivating for the children – e.g. UKS2 volcano homework. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to secondary transfer, it is important that they continue to have homework in Term 6 after SATs. • The sheet showing different ways to practise spellings was REALLY helpful – could it be sent out again please? • Would it be possible to have some worksheets to reinforce learning (e.g. calculations) – method at the top and then some practice questions. This would help parents. <i>We discussed having a bank of these available. The idea behind this is so that the children can practise methods they have learned, which they may not be currently using in class.</i> • Emphasise/ reminders that the children need to be doing the homework, not the parents. • Don’t like the termly homework section – no feedback, specific guidance. (LKS2) • In the higher years I think it would be a good idea to split their homework into different sections set on different days in order for them to get used to having to hand things in at different times and therefore plan their week in anticipation of secondary school. The level of homework doesn't necessarily need to change and can potentially still be set on one day but the expectation that spellings for example need to be shown on a Monday, reading records on Wed and weekly task Fri.(UKS2)
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Remember to find useful ways to support your child in their learning on the school website:

<http://www.marden.kent.sch.uk>

Thank you to all the parents who attended the meeting and for your constructive feedback.