

Following our homework questionnaire we have a new homework policy! It is available here on the school website but if you would like a hard copy please contact school and we will send one with pleasure.

### **Top 10 Tips for homework survival!**

#### **1. YOUR EXPERIENCE COUNTS**

Try and link life and leisure experience to your child's school work e.g. visits to the park, museum or days out. These could be linked to your child's topic. Remember your child will enjoy spending time with you. Learning together and sharing experiences are so important. Your child will enjoy learning about you and your experiences, as well as doing new things together.

#### **2. TAKE AN INTEREST**

Let them know you want to be involved.

Make time to ask your child about what they are learning in school and what they have learned today. Another great way to show you are interested is to attend school activities such as class assemblies, parents' evenings and sport events.

There are lots of ways you can help your child with their homework, especially if they get stuck. Have a chat about what they did last time it happened and what you could do to help, or where you could both look for help.

#### **3. MAKE TIME**

Make time, even 5 minutes could help! If your child knows that you care they will be more likely to want to do homework and hand it in on time. You can encourage learning while you are out and about together, in the car, shopping, eating meals and even in walking around Thorpe! It's also a good idea to set a routine for homework (and stick to it) - like after tea. It helps to know what homework your child has and get a sense of how long it should take them. Your class's homework timetable will help here. There's always something happening that you can both talk and learn about!

#### **4. LEND A HAND**

Let them know you're there to help. Help your child to use resources that are available to them such as the local library, the Internet or books. Talk about school and learning activities in family conversations and make sure - that if they need help they know they can ask you to give them a hand.

Sometimes children get stuck on their homework. It is fine to help - just leave a little note to let the teacher know which parts have been tricky.

## 5. REMOVE DISTRACTIONS

Help your child concentrate by creating the best learning environment, e.g. take the dog out of the room or turn the volume down on the TV. Provide an area that is light and fairly quiet.

It doesn't have to be fancy - the kitchen table, a space in their bedroom or a corner of the living room will be fine, as long as homework is given priority and they are not interrupted.

## 6. HAVE A LOOK

Check to see how your child is getting on with their homework. By seeing their progress you will find out if they need any more help or encouragement. When they've finished, have a look and see how well they've done with their work. Leave a note in the reading record, too.

## 7. GIVE PRAISE

Let them know they're doing a good job! Let your child know that you are pleased with their progress. Help them to make activities and learning tasks feel more achievable by showing them just how much they have already achieved.

Remember - you can show them how not giving up and hard work can lead to success.

## 8. WATCH THE TELLY

Use TV programmes as prompts for discussion and learning, e.g. popular soaps and soap characters' lives could provide topics for discussion. Make sure TV time is a set time and that it does not get in the way of study time. Make TV a treat for progress rather than a background feature.

## 9. GO TO SCHOOL

Talk with your child's teachers - they will be pleased that you want to get involved. Let them know that you are keen to help your child with their study and that you want to get involved in their learning experiences.

Parent /teacher consultation are a good opportunities to find out how you can help your child with their learning. You could ask them questions about:

How your child is doing at school

What they might be struggling with

How you can help your child

## 10. REWARD PROGRESS

Set goals and provide treats for achievements.

Let your child know that you are there to encourage and support them to learn. Let them know that they are making good progress and that you are pleased with their efforts. Help them to try new experiences and get the most out of their time at school.