

Parent Forum Notes

Date of Meeting	10.02.2022
Presented By	Clare Larkin - Head of School Danielle Lloyd- Lead Assistant Headteacher/SENco

Mrs Larkin welcomed all 45 attendees, an amazing turnout of the joint platform forum – in person 8/zoom meeting 37, enabling parents and carers, to access the forum from work and home. We will continue to host meetings in such a way to be as accessible to as many parents/carers as possible.

Introduction to Link Learning

Reasoning behind our new approach to home learning – link learning. This is a change to our current home learning (9 square) grid, and we appreciate there may be tweaks along the way once we have had time for the process to be embedded at home and in school. Further Parent Forum's will be held to review these practices.

As we seem to be entering a more consistent time with schools being open, as well as staff and children isolating for a shorter period, we are able to now move forward and strengthen our focus with 'Link Learning', further demonstrating that learning can be fun. This supports our children with the consolidation of basic skills taught in class, which informs parents of the learning that is taking place in the classroom, preparing children for transition into high school – both in terms of workload, independence and organisation.

Expectations

Expectations will change as the children progress along their school journey and the level of link learning will increase.

In Year 6 the amount of link learning expected to be completed will increase throughout the year preparing them for the transition into high school.

Parents are expected to support their children with completing link learning and encourage them. As the children get older, parents can support by providing them with a quiet space and a set time for them to build up their independence to complete their tasks.

Please remember that whilst we ask that parents support your child with their link learning, it is NOT your job to teach them. That is our job! So, if your child is struggling, tell us and we can help them. Do NOT worry!

When will Link Learning be Handed Out?

Across school - Link Learning will be set on a Friday and needs to be *submitted* by the following Thursday. Link learning will be allocated on Google Classroom (links will be shared here for any other online platform required) alongside children being given it in paper form.

Children's link learning is differentiated to suit your child's individual learning needs to support with confidence in learning at their specific level and ability.

We encourage children to make comments on the Google Classroom platform, for example if they have found something particularly challenging or easy.

Children learn best when the significant adults in their lives - parents, teachers, and other family and community members - work together to encourage and support them.

We believe a supportive partnership between home and school is an essential ingredient for a child's successful education. If you have any questions about how you can support your child's

learning and development, please talk to your child's class teacher, we have an open door policy and are always happy to forward emails on to class teacher via the office – admin@ltpa.bright-futures.co.uk

Marking Link Learning

Whilst link learning will not have written feedback, instead it may form part of a class discussion, during which pupils will be given verbal feedback for their efforts. Sometimes pictures of home learning will be shared on Google Classroom.

Reading

We feel passionately that the most significant thing that you, as parents, can do to support your child's learning is to share books with them on a regular basis.

By this we mean reading to your child, listening to your child read and talking about what you are reading. As adults, we are all reading role models – there is lots of evidence that children seeing their parents and adults around them read is a powerful factor in encouraging them to read more frequently.

Becoming a confident, fluent reader, able to understand a range of texts is hugely important – it allows a child to grow in confidence and to access all areas of the curriculum.

Your child should spend short periods of time (10-15 minutes) each day reading, talking about their reading or listening to an adult read.

A phonics and reading meeting took place earlier this half term for both Early Years and Key Stage 1 parents and carers, a presentation/overview will be shared with these year group parents

Year 6 Link learning

The intention of homework in Year 6 is to build children's confidence in the key concepts taught across the core subjects, particularly as we prepare for the summer term SATs tests. In addition, as part of our transition offer, we are preparing the children for the homework expectations set out at secondary school.

Therefore, with guidance from teachers, children will be asked to practise **revision style learning**. This approach will enable consolidation of key concepts, and will help them to develop the skill for high school. For example, we would ask that all children revise key language used in SPAG and Maths. This might include: reading through knowledge organisers provided by school, writing notes, adding word cards/ post its around the house etc. This should take place at least once per week.

In addition to ongoing revision style learning, the children will be given one **homework task** per week to complete. This will be a variety of maths, reading or SPAG activities. The tasks should take no longer than 1 hour to complete and where needed, will be differentiated to suit pupils' abilities. Such tasks will be consolidating learning of the week rather than revisiting past concepts (more common in revision style learning). As well as this, during the two-week Easter break, we will provide children with both revision and homework tasks via Google Classroom.

Year 4 Multiplication Table Check

The Multiplication Tables Check is to be taken towards the end of Year 4 (Summer 2 Term) to make sure children are meeting the benchmark of memorising their times tables up to 12 x 12 before moving up to Upper Key Stage 2 (Year 5 and Year 6). – Parents were invited to an information zoom meeting earlier this week. A presentation/overview will be shared with Year 4 parents.

We will support children with completing their link learning in school if they have not been able to complete it at home.

Parent/carer Question Overview

Barrier to home learning as a parent is trying to juggle over multiple platforms – unable to access links, logins not working. Amount of prescribed work on grid overwhelming. – Scrapping the 9 square home learning grid and adopting a simplified approach to systematic learning of basic skills, small, consistent manageable chunks of link learning. Less work volume as to correct the balance to family life, while embedding the importance to plug gaps, catch-up and maintain children's learning levels of basic skills which underpin all learning.

Will there be consistency across all year groups for home work going home and being shared in class? I also find it hard to motivate children to complete home work when they are not asked for it in class – There will be consistency across all year groups – Link learning will be shared on a Friday and expected to be returned by the following Thursday.

Reassured of the new initiative and appreciate there will be stumbling blocks. How much do the children know about it and are they onboard? – Can't talk for the teachers across all classes and at present children are still working to the current home learning grid, so not wanting to confuse. Teachers will be discussing link learning and the expectations with children in readiness for it to start on the first Friday back after half term break. Teachers will be reiterating the changes and preparing the children with regular reminders during our first week back.

Will the submission have to be in Google Classroom in KS1 too? - Homework will be shared in Google Classroom and also given out in paper form. We would prefer parents to upload this to Google classroom in photo form if this is not feasible then you can hand in the paper copy on a Thursday.

We have trouble uploading to google classroom sometimes -

If you are having trouble logging on please speak to your child's class teacher and we will look into it and reset logins in necessary ;-)

Can we have a simplified copy of the teacher's termly plan of learning materials planned on the week days so are on the right track as parent with the online learning and the class? - Curriculum Newsletters are sent at the end each half term which give an insight into what your child will be learning the following half term. This could link to family days out during the holidays, for example if your child will be learning about the Egyptian's – a possible trip to the museum? Maths homework will be linked to what your child has been learning in school the previous week, consolidating their learning

What is the plan for year one in terms of those who are well performing as they will require some different materials to push their learning further - All homework and activities sent out on Google Classroom are differentiated for the children.

My Year 3 child is a very good reader, before the introduction of 'bubbles' she was able to access books from the upper KS 2 pavilion reading areas and choosing challenging books. Will this be re-introduced? She is currently bring home books that are not challenging her and are below her level. – We will look into this. All children have a catalogued level that they would not work below. We also encourage children to access challenging books for their love of reading.

Why do Reception and Year 1 children not bring home books? My younger child enjoys the online books and game but my other child is not engaged and prefers a physical book. – Wider opportunity through using Active Learn/Phonics Bug children have a larger variety of books with different genres to read. However, it is essential that children are engaged in reading and we would encourage parents and carers to inform class teacher if they feel their child is better suited to

a physical book. Distribution of books can be tricky and limiting for our children as there are not as many choices to offer your child with the provision we have.

Can books be donated to the school? – Yes we would be very grateful for book donations and they can be dropped off with class teachers/school office. Donated 'Lovely Books' are then accessible to all children in the library and reading areas around the school.

Do you think now is a good time to re-plug the Birthday Book idea, enough time has passed from parents first being told – no sweets for birthdays – We are looking to re-launch with support of ambassadors

Are Government expectations realistic - Yes, it is high, but why aren't we aiming high? And for many it is realistic.

Mrs Larkin explained there will be learning walks during the coming months and further parent forums to review the link learning process, that parents/cares will be invited to attend. Everyone was thanked for their time, and would like for everyone to spread the word for the next Parents Forum and to encourage other parents and carer's to attend.

Information of key stage presentations and meeting overviews can be found on our school website <https://www.limetree.trafford.sch.uk/parents/parents-forum/>