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## HOMEWORK SURVEY RESULTS

Dear Parent,

January 2016

Thank you to all who completed the homework survey last term. The returns have been studied and it is clear that the majority of parents are happy with the current programme. However, there are a few parents who are struggling with homework and it is causing stress for them and their children. Hopefully, there are a few ideas here which can help. Your responses are detailed below. This is followed by recommendations and changes we will put in place to address concerns.



1. **Importance of homework** : The vast majority of parents believe that homework is important. A few parents thought it was useful but not essential.
2. **Amount of homework**: Responses varied. The majority felt the amount was about right but some indicated there was too much and others too little.
3. **Time spent on homework**: Again, responses varied (often dependent on how keen or reluctant the child is to do their homework)
4. **Does your child know what the task is?**: The vast majority of children know what to do always or most of the time, but a few parents say their child rarely knows what they have been asked to do.
5. **Parental help with homework**: 100% of parents offer help with homework tasks, regardless of the age of the child.
6. **Do parents receive enough information about homework?**: Again the vast majority of parents answered 'Yes' but there were a few who said 'No'
7. **Additional information**: Many parents requested information leaflets and guidance to be posted on the school website.
8. **Does your child enjoy homework?**: Most of the responses (over 90%) indicated 'Always' or 'Most of the time'. A few said 'Sometimes' and 5 children never enjoy homework.
9. **Question 9 asked about attitudes to homework**: Most of the responses were positive but there were a few who said their child moans and fusses and says it is too hard etc. Thank you for your honesty!
10. **Homework during family holidays**: The majority of parents expect homework to be provided if they take their child out of school during term time.
11. **Where does your child complete their homework?**: By far the most common response to this question was at a table, early in the evening.
12. **Type of homework issued**: The majority of parents indicated that they agree that practice of the basics (reading, spelling, number bonds, times tables etc.) is essential but more interesting tasks such as model making, internet research, web based games etc. are also welcome.

(Q1 and 4) The purpose of homework is to consolidate what has been done in the classroom, so no child should come home saying, "I haven't done this." Homework also helps parents keep in touch with what children are learning in school and there is no doubt that children who study at home achieve better results and develop a good attitude to independent learning, which is vital for success at secondary school.

(Q 5, 8, 9 and 11) Parents can support homework by establishing a suitable time for homework - it is better to complete it early in the evening before your child gets too tired. You should also ensure there is an appropriate place to work with minimum distraction (e.g. don't have the TV on in the room). If your child fusses and says they can't do it, remind them that the teacher would not issue homework that the child is not capable of completing. Remember that you are in charge no matter how hard your child tries to take

control. However, don't allow an argument to develop. If the complaining continues, write a wee note to the teacher, explaining why the homework is not done, but don't allow your child to then do what he/she wants. This reinforces the message that if they make a big enough fuss, they get off with doing their homework!

(Q3) The time your child spends on homework is less important than his or her understanding of it. The following is a rough guide to the amount of time a child should spend on homework:

Primary 1 and 2	10 - 15 min per night
Primary 3, 4 and 5	15 - 20 min per night
Primary 6 and 7	20 - 30 min per night



Children are sometimes asked to talk to their families about what they learned in school on a particular day. This can be the most valuable homework of all, especially if you show interest and play an active role by asking your child questions about their day.

(Q4, 6 & 7) Some parents (and children!) are unsure of information that has been copied (or miscopied) from the board. In order to overcome this problem, each teacher will have a homework section on their page on the school website. There are already some parent guides for homework on the website and more will be added in due course. (The website has been offline since December 16<sup>th</sup> but I am assured that this will be restored soon. I will send details home when this is ready.)

(Q10) If you take your child on holiday during term time, schools are not required to provide homework. At Aitkenbar, we usually ask children to keep a diary of places they have visited, what they have learned etc. On your return, the teacher will teach important aspects of learning that your child has missed.

(Q2) If you feel your child does not receive enough homework, there are other activities you can give your child to do.

- ✓ Ask your child to tell you what they **learned** in school each day (not what they did).
- ✓ Show an interest in the topic the class is covering (details of the main focus for each of the 8 subjects can be found in the Class Learning section of the school website).
- ✓ Provide books for your child to read and ask them to tell you about what they have read
- ✓ Allow them to carry out research from books or the computer if you have Internet access
- ✓ Let them access some of the excellent educational websites, most of which can be adjusted to suit different age groups - a selection is included below
- ✓ Above all - try to make homework a positive experience. Ask your child to teach you what they learned in school. This reinforces your child's learning and keeps you informed.

<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/parents/problems-with-homework>

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/parents/primary\\_support/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/parents/primary_support/)

<https://www.brainpop.com/>

<http://www.makemegenius.com/>

<https://jr.brainpop.com/math/numbersense/> (for younger children)

<http://ngkids.co.uk/> (National Geographic for kids)

<http://thekidzpage.com/>

<http://www.exploratorium.edu/explore/activities> (Science)

<http://pbskids.org/games/>

<http://www.learninggamesforkids.com/>

<http://www.coolmath4kids.com/>

<http://www.funbrain.com/>

<http://kidsknowit.com/>

<http://www.galacticphonics.com/>



I realise this is quite a lengthy report but it is important that you are aware of the survey results.

I will let you know when the additions to the website have been completed. Please let me know if you have any future concerns about homework or if you need further advice.

Yours faithfully,

Christine Hutchison (Head Teacher)