



Dear all

25th April 2018

Homework

Welcome back after the Easter break, I hope you all had a lovely holiday. The summer term is promising to be a very busy one; we are looking forward to another fabulous term.

I am writing to keep you informed of a number of updates and changes. We are passionate about continually improving so that we provide the very best for our children. I am very excited about these new tweaks to our working practice that I am confident will have great impact.

In response to the feedback we have received from you we have thoroughly researched the best approaches to homework. Our belief is that it needs to be meaningful and manageable and fully integrated with how we set out learning at Broadstone Middle. As such, during the last half term of this academic year, we will be implementing Retrieval Practice for our homework approach. This has proven to be very effective in improving standards and for us has the added benefit of explicitly developing metacognitive strategies. Retrieval Practice is structured, will provide more consistency for pupils and it will be much easier for parents to support their children.

This approach may require some explanation so we would like to invite you to a meeting on **Thursday 17th May at 5pm** so that we can explain this process in detail and answer any questions you may have. We will also be putting a video onto our website, so if you are unable to make the meeting all the information will be available so that you can support you child in making this a really meaningful activity. If you would like to attend, please return the reply slip overleaf.

I would also like to inform you about a trial over the next term. There has been a huge amount of research on feedback to pupils and the most effective ways of doing this. Marking books is a particularly ineffective way to give feedback and takes up a disproportionate amount time for teachers compared to the impact it has on learning. Over the next term, we will be trialling different ways of giving feedback to pupils, making them more independent in their learning and as a part of this I will be directing teachers not to mark any books for this period. I want to assure you that all work in books will be viewed and responded to by teachers, just not in written form in the book. Instead, we will give whole class feedback. We will review this in July and will be coming back to you for feedback at this point to gain a parental view. I am aware that this is a significant shift in education culture and can assure you that we have researched this thoroughly. There are now many schools locally and nationally which have already adopted this approach and are reporting particularly positive results.

We pride ourselves on the fact that we are at the forefront of pedagogical improvements as a research lead school and we are always looking to maximise learning opportunities for our children.

As ever please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns or worries.

Yours sincerely

Mrs D Wilks
Headteacher

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BROADSTONE MIDDLE SCHOOL REPLY SLIP

Re: Homework Information Meeting

Pupil's Name: Class:

I would like to attend the Homework Information meeting on Thursday 17th May at 5pm. Please reserve me seats.

Signed: (Parent/Carer) Date:

Please return to the School Office by Monday 14th May 2018

