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Head Teacher: **Ms V Sengupta**

BA Hons, PGCE, NPQH

Friday 16th September 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Homework

According to recent research by the Education Endowment Fund, for homework to be effective it must: fully engage children/parents and carers in the learning; be relevant to the learning in the classroom and have a clear purpose. With that in mind, after consultation with the Upland Parent Partnership and a successful trial last term, we have decided to improve the quality of homework at our school.

At Upland Primary, we view homework as being a supported or independent task undertaken outside of curriculum time which reinforces, extends or enriches current and/or future learning.

Regular opportunities to read are vital throughout the primary years. Therefore your child will still be expected to read daily with their reading record being signed at least **twice** a week. Learning spellings and arithmetic skills will also be expected on a weekly basis, when appropriate, to support the learning in class. These tasks are designed to consolidate and practise the learning taking place in class. Your child will also be issued with a grid of topic tasks. Topic tasks will be set on a termly basis. These tasks will be organised into four different areas of learning: communication; knowledge and understanding; creative; and personal and social. All topic tasks will be cross-curricular and will be designed to celebrate children's strengths whilst encouraging independence in their learning. At least one task will involve a visit.

Your child will be issued with a grid of 20 tasks. They will be expected to complete 12 weeks worth of tasks by 14th December. Some tasks may take more than 1 week to complete and this is stipulated next to the task. They will still have their homework books to complete the tasks in, if they wish to, but are encouraged to be as creative as they want to. If there is no obvious piece of homework to hand in, please ensure that you write a comment/provide photos/videos to show you have interacted with the task.

Homework will be expected in on a Wednesday with homework books returned. New spellings and arithmetic will be issued on a Friday. Some year groups may give you the entire term's spellings at once. The children will still be tested weekly with the scores shared with them. The children will be required to colour in the box of the task they have completed to keep track. Class teachers will monitor the homework being handed in and will use a range of ways to celebrate and acknowledge your child's achievements.

We hope that with these changes that homework will become more beneficial for your children and that the tasks will inspire them to see learning as a life-long process.

Thank you for your continuing support of the school and please do not hesitate to contact me or your child's class teacher if you have any questions about these changes.

Yours sincerely

Miss Smiles