



Archibald First School

Archibald Street
Gosforth
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE3 1EB
September 2020

Headteacher **Mrs R Turner**

0191 285 1957
admin@archibald.newcastle.sch.uk
www.archibaldfirstschool.org.uk

Dear Parents and Carers

Nursery and Reception Homework at Archibald

We are writing to let you know about homework in both Nursery and Reception for 2020-21. As this year is very different to previous years we are hoping to set and mark homework via Tapestry so please bear-with us whilst we work on this. Additionally, if you are having problems accessing your Tapestry account please email school on the admin address.

Nursery

You and Me Tasks – fortnightly: This is a task to do together with your child and will relate to the topic work within the Early Years Unit. This will be sent via Tapestry.

Reading Bag - fortnightly: In normal circumstances we would send a book bag home containing a story, poetry or non-fiction book for you to share with your child. Talking about the books and reading them together at bedtime is a great way to spend 10 minutes together and begin the process of learning to read. However, this year we are hoping to send you a pre-reading activity, a good book to look at or some questions to use on your own stories at home instead.

Homework Pattern: Week 1- You and Me Task, Week 2 – Reading Activity, Week 3 – You and Me Task, Week 4 – Reading Activity.

Maths: Our Maths Monkeys will set regular maths challenges and investigations linked to the maths we are doing in class. This will be communicated via Tapestry.

Reception

Reading

We strongly encourage the children to read on a daily basis. 10 minutes a day will support your child's reading and develop their love of books especially when reading additional books to the school texts sent home. Books will be given out on a Monday and asked to be returned to school on a Thursday, ready to be changed for the following week. This is following the whole school procedures in line with COVID restrictions.

Reading books will begin to be sent home in September. The books may be pictures books until your child is ready for a book with text. Talking about the pictures and telling the story orally is a great way to become a reader!

You and Me Tasks – fortnightly: This is a task to do together with your child and will relate to the topic work within the Early Years Unit. This will be sent home via Tapestry.

Also included is the fun challenge of '100 things to do before Year 1'. You are welcome to record these in the books as you tick them off your list.

Having fun, achieving excellence.

Successful learners. Confident individuals. Responsible citizens.

Maths: Every half term your child will get a set of maths challenges sent via Tapestry which can be completed in their You and Me book. These might be a fun problem solving activity, practical experience or mental maths work to support your child's knowledge of numbers, facts or counting.

These challenges are for you to work on throughout the half term and to date when your child has completed them. Any recording can be made in their You and Me book and sent via Tapestry.

Please see the non-negotiables that form the basis of our maths homework.

<http://www.archibaldfirstschool.org.uk/parents-information/support-topics/>

The aims of the You and Me book are;

- Homework is valued by the children, school and home.
- To keep homework together.
- To provide a place to record work, and comments from home.

Expectations and Routines:

- Due to limiting what comes in and out of school, this year the majority of homework tasks will be set via Tapestry and we ask that where possible parents/carers share the completed tasks on their child's Tapestry account, where a member of staff will look at it, like it and/or comment.
- If parents have a query about homework, we ask that they send all questions via Tapestry to their child's class teacher.

Key Words: There is a strong focus on children learning their key words. This is for their reading development and in time will impact on their writing. At the beginning of a new phase of phonics your child will receive a whole set of words. Then as your child progresses through that phase of phonics learning, the key words of focus will be shared on Tapestry. How many they receive and when will depend on your child and when they are ready. Some words are those that can be sounded out (black) whilst others will be tricky words which just have to be learnt on sight (red). Try playing flashcards, matching pairs, jumping on the right word or popping them on post it notes around the house to encourage your child to learn them in a fun way. These will be sent home in a small vocab book.

Sound Books/Handwriting: The children take part in daily phonics sessions. The letter sounds that are taught each week will be added to your child's Tapestry account for you to reinforce and work with at home. Along with each sound will be a handwriting practise sheet. At school we follow a handwriting scheme as correct letter formation is so important. Please practise the letters on the given sheet, following the correct routes and then why not try writing the letters in wet sand, shaving foam, on a mum or dad's palm or back or using a painted finger as these activities make letter formation more fun and messy!!! These DO NOT need returning to school, but of course you can show us on Tapestry if you wish.

The Early Years team will be holding our Reading, Phonics and Curriculum Meeting for parents of Reception children via Tapestry. More information will follow.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Turner and Mrs Nelson