



Homework – the ongoing debate

Research into the value of homework continues to give mixed results. Research does suggest too much homework can have a little benefit for young children and that for homework to be truly beneficial it has to be highly personalised. Traditional homework assumes that every child has the same maturity, concentration and ability level, when in real life all children vary enormously from one child to the next which is why traditional homework is too much for some children and cause upset, anxiety and conflict with parents and for other children it is simply not challenging enough. Some schools are abandoning homework altogether for these reasons. But at Richard Clarke, we do value homelearning and so have some up with a programme to try and suit all learners (and parents!).

AUTUMN TERM	SPRING 2 ND HALF TERM	SUMMER TERM
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Daily reading for as long as it's enjoyable both listening to child read, shared reading and reading to your child. 2) Weekly spelling list to learn- look cover/write/check and word play activities 3) Times table/number facts practise ongoing – children can work through award scheme (Numbots/TTRS) at their own pace 4) Alternate maths / English / topic homelearning weekly – practise of skills learned in class, parents to annotate how children coped with the task and how much help was given, no more than 1 hour per week, see Google classroom for tasks 		
<p><u>Advantages:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submitting homework provides a good lesson in responsibility and diligence • Homework can be a good talking point during parent–teacher interviews • Homework allows children to revise content learnt during the day with a fresh set of eyes and a clear head, away from their friends and other school distractions. This also provides parents with an opportunity to get involved in their child's school work, providing assistance and additional insight when needed • Regular practise of reading/spellings/number facts helps embed learning 		

SPRING 1ST HALF TERM

- 1) Suggested daily reading for as long as it's enjoyable both listening to child read, shared reading and reading to your child.
- 2) Weekly spelling list to learn- look cover/write/check and word play activities
- 3) Times table/number facts practise ongoing – children can work through award scheme (Numbots/TTRS) at their own pace

4) **Ganas project**

Ganas means:

Desire, urge; from the Spanish verb ganar, to win or gain. The term was popularized among English speakers by the LA mathematics teacher Jaime Escalante as played by Edward James Olmos in the movie Stand and Deliver.

"You're going to work harder here than you've ever worked anywhere else. And the only thing I ask from you is ganas. Desire... If you don't have the ganas, I will give it to you, because I'm an expert." (from Stand and Deliver)

These projects will be more child led. The teacher will provide a list of suggestions for lines of enquiry and suggested activities on the Google classroom. But the project should be the child's choice and anything goes. The focus of learning may be science, geography or history but the medium for presenting learning may be Technology, English, Art or Design & Technology. The project can then be shared with other children and parents on our 'Ganas' days to celebrate our achievements and teachers and children can give feedback on the success of the projects.

Advantages:

- Children will develop a whole range of essential life skills such as time management, organisational skills, independence, exploring different ways of presenting learning, researching and finding things out, creativity
- Children will be able to choose their project and will therefore hopefully develop a curious mind and a life long love of learning
- We hope children will be passionate about the project and get a lot of self satisfaction and pride in their outcome
- Families can work together and learn things from each other
- Children can then develop their communication skills when they present their projects to the rest of the school on sharing day
- Children can be inspired by each other's passion and successes

NB the value of this is in the process and not in the end product, so avoid the temptation to do too much of the work for your children and avoid putting pressure on yourselves to be competitive. All projects are valued equally.