



Dear Parent / Carer

Some important news for you:

- (i) Information on 'Learning at Home' (the new name for 'Homework'!).
- (ii) An invitation for you to sign our 'Golden Key Reading Promise'!

A New Name for Homework!

We are re-naming 'Homework'. From now on it will be called '**Learning at Home**'!

The important role of Parents/Carers

- To make 'learning at home' effective, your role as a parent/carer is absolutely vital.
- Please sign the 'Golden Key Promise' on page 3, and return it to school this week.

Reading is at the heart of Learning at Home

Reading is at the heart of our new approach to Learning at Home. It is the golden key that unlocks all other areas of learning!

Words, Spellings and Times Tables Too!

As well as Reading, we will be asking the children to learn words, spellings & times-tables. There might also be occasional 'mini-projects'. There are also some 'online' options.

No Worksheets!

In our new approach to 'Learning at Home, no worksheets will be given out (unless absolutely necessary). Slips of paper with instructions & tasks may be used, but no traditional worksheets. Our 'Learning at Home' Policy, on our web site, explains why.

Please sign our 'Golden Key Reading Promise'! – and unlock a great future for your child!

We'd like you to commit to supporting your child's Reading by:

- Reading with your child several times every week, and signing the Home-School Diary.
- Encouraging your child to read every evening!

The 'promise sheet' is attached. Please fill it in and return it to school this week.

Yours sincerely

Mr McAnaney and the GPS Team

Learning at Home at GPS

Notes from your child's teacher:

EYFS (Nursery and Reception)

- Every half term, parents to be given a list of suggested practical activities to complete with their child (Nursery and Reception).
 - Reading is the priority. We expect children to read at least 3 times per week for at least 5 minutes each session (Reception).
 - High Frequency Words, Tricky words or sound flash cards will be sent home, and we expect you to practice with your child 3 times per week, 5 minutes each session (Reception).
 - Weekly practical maths activity to be given to parents which will last up to 10 minutes (Reception).
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Key Stage 1 (Years 1 & 2)

- Reading is the key priority. We expect children to read at least 3 times per week, for 10 minutes.
 - High Frequency Words / Tricky words/ Common exception words / sound flash cards will be sent home to be practised as often as possible – at least once per week.
 - Children to receive weekly spellings linked to the sound they are learning, or common exception words, to practise three times a week.
 - Handwriting will be sent home weekly to help develop fluency.
 - Year 2 will be expected to practise the 2, 5 and 10 times tables at least three times each week.
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Lower Key Stage 2 (Years 3 & 4)

- Reading, spellings and times tables are the priorities.
 - We expect children to read at least 3 times per week for 15 minutes each session. Spellings to be practised at 3 times a week and times tables 3 times a week.
 - Children will receive spelling rules (and a sheet or book) to practise spellings weekly. Those children who need to develop handwriting will receive handwriting or fine motor skills practice tasks.
 - If parents would like to support their children further, all children have logins for Times Table Rockstars, Bug Club and Spelling Shed.
 - Termly, children will receive a topic project which may span a half term. Children will be given a choice of ideas to support them with this.
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Upper Key Stage 2 (Years 5 & 6)

- Reading, spellings and times tables are the priorities.
- We expect children to read at least 3 times per week for 20 minutes each session. Spellings 3 times a week and times tables 3 times a week.
- Children will receive spelling rules (and a sheet or book) to practise spellings weekly. Those children who need to develop their handwriting will receive handwriting or fine motor skill practice tasks.
- In spring term, Y6 children will receive tasks (English & Maths) in preparation for SATs.
- Termly, children will receive a topic project which may span a half term. Children will be given a choice of ideas to support them with this.
- If parents would like to support their children further, all children have logins for Times Table Rockstars, Mathletics, Bug Club, Spelling Shed and Read Theory.
- Where the opportunity arises, linked to topics or lessons, children may be given a verbal task which involves them talking to an adult/ or doing independent research.



The GPS 'Golden Key Reading Promise'

A commitment for parents that will really make a difference to your child's learning – guaranteed!



As a parent/carer I promise:

- To read with my child, at home, several times every week (see year-group guidelines).
- To encourage my child to read independently, frequently (see year-group guidelines).
- To sign the Home-School Reading Diary whenever my child reads at home.
- To make sure the Home-School Reading Diary is returned to school every day.
- To make sure any school reading books are returned to school every day
- To make sure that my child completes any tasks related to spellings, times tables, and so on.
- To take an interest in my child's learning, by asking questions about school.

Name of Parent/Carer: _____

Name of your child: _____

Signed (parent/carer): _____

By signing, I agree to carry out all of the above responsibilities.

Please return your signed form to school by Friday 19th October.
We will then make a copy for you, and your child will bring it home.