



# SUTTON ST JAMES C.P. SCHOOL

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8<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Dear Parents / Carers,

## Reading and Homework Review and Changes

Homework is always a contentious issue with children, parents and staff – some think there should be more, some think less and some think none at all. At Sutton St James School, we believe that a vital part of our role is to begin to prepare children for their continued education and for their adult lives.

As a part of this, staff have been reviewing the homework activities that children are asked to complete at home, over the last term.

As part of our review, we discussed whether homework should be set for our children and several different options explored. We referred to research and evidence to help us to make our decision. It was decided to carry on setting homework for the following reasons:

Evidence from the EEF and British Council suggests that

- Homework can help students develop good study skills, like time management, self-discipline and independent learning. This process fosters autonomy, a skills essential for academic and professional success.
- Regular homework can lead to an average of three additional months of progress for students in Primary school and 5 months in Secondary school.
- Good homework routines, when established in Primary school, can support pupils to effectively transition into Secondary education.

Different homework activities have been trialled in different classes across the school. Tasks will be changed, at age-appropriate levels, to concentrate on consolidating the 4 main calculation strategies (which may still include working with fractions and decimals) in Maths. In English, the focus will now be on the understanding and application of grammar, punctuation and spelling. We hope that by concentrating on these basic areas of these two core subjects, all children will be more confident when using and applying these in everyday lessons.

The Reading expectation will remain the same based on children reading at home for 5 – 10 minutes, 5 times a week across the term and keeping this going during the holidays.

To encourage all children to complete and hand in their homework each week as well as complete their reading, the current reward incentive will be adapted to include homework as well.

From now on, children will be expected to complete the homework that they are set each week, as well as complete 5 reads at home to earn the end of term reward. There will continue to be 3 levels of reward for children to earn. The system and the rewards earned are explained in the following table.

<u>Homework completed and Percentage of Reads completed (based on 5 reads per week)</u>	<u>Reward achieved</u>
75% of possible reads for the term No homework required	• Reading Certificate presented in Celebration Assembly
85% of possible reads for the term All homework completed each week of the term	• Class Reward Incentive (choice of options e.g. ICT, Sport, Film, Free Time etc)
100% of possible reads for the term (or more if reading any more than 5 times a week) All homework to be completed each week of the term	• Class Reward Incentive (choice of options e.g. ICT, Sport, Film, Free Time etc) • An edible treat in class during the final week of term

A chart will be used in each classroom to record the number of reads recorded and signed by somebody at home in their home reading record. **Please sign your child's reading record regularly**, ideally each time your child reads. If nothing is recorded for the week in the reading record, then nothing will be recorded on the chart for that week. Completion of homework will also be recorded on this chart each week.

**Homework club** will be offered each week after school on a Thursday (the day that homework is set in each class), to support parents in encouraging children to complete their homework. Children will also be given an opportunity in school to complete their homework at lunchtime if they have been unable to complete it at home as we do not want them to miss out on consolidating this essential knowledge and understanding in the core subjects.

We recognise that not all parents will be happy with the decisions that we have made as a staff in terms of homework, but we hope that you will support your child in achieving the end of term reward.

Yours sincerely,

*C. Willows*

Miss Claire Willows  
Headteacher