



Swanmore C.E. (Aided) Primary School

13th March 2020

Dear Parents,

Following discussions with parents about wanting the best life opportunities for their children and advice from Hampshire's Education team, I want to write to share some changes related to Year R and Key Stage 1 homework that will start after Easter.

In essence, the homework for Year R and KSI children will the vast majority of times will only be reading. Simply put, children who read the most at home surpass the educational success of their peers who do not read at home. Children need to be able to read fluently to engage with other areas of the curriculum and therefore reading supports all learning.

While the entire focus of our lives should not be a child's academic success, I know that you have high expectations for your child. You expect them to do well in school, you expect them to go to college, and you expect them to have happy, productive lives. Knowing that you have these goals for your child, it concerns me greatly when children report to me that they do not read much at home.

I obviously cannot make your children read at home. The only people who can carve out reading time for your children at home are you, their parents. This is hard, but it matters more than any other academic support you could provide. Hopefully by removing the time used for other homework, will support daily reading. This can of course be:

- To your child
- Hearing your child
- Reading with your child

Looking at the reading groups across Year R and KSI, on average 40% of the children are not reading regularly (at least 3 times a week). I would like the children to read/be read to, on a daily basis as I want the children to enjoy reading and stories. I am sure this is happening as children have their 'bed time' stories. I am not sure completing a log is going to help enjoyment, however, I now ask that the children's logs are completed- and I will be asking staff to follow up on this to support the children's learning. All we ask you to do is *add a date and initial* so we know the children are reading at least 3 times a week, as well as all of the other times at home too.

I do appreciate this is a lot of information but I, like you, want the best for your child, so they have the best life opportunities in their future. Thank you for your understanding and support.

John Paterson
Headteacher