

## Home learning and home communication charter 2024-25



At the end of the Summer term, we sent a school survey out to every parent, member of staff and class of pupils to better understand what we were doing well, and what we could do even better.

One area that would benefit both families and teachers was clarity around reading, home learning and school communications, so that all could be clear about what should be sent home, and how best to share messages.

We looked at our existing practice, the age of the children involved, and approaches that had already proved effective and appreciated. We also factored in costs, use of electronic resources, and the time and impact for staff and parents.

Below are what you can expect to receive from your class teacher, and the best ways to find out about your child's learning.

### Reading books:

## Home Learning

Until children pass their Phonics screening they should have a choice of two books at home – a 'Reading for Pleasure' book that they can choose and change weekly, and a Rocket Phonics or levelled reading book, allocated by their teacher, and only changed when the child has mastered all of the sounds and fully understood the content of the book.

Reception	KS1 (Years 1 and 2)	LKS2 (Years 3 and 4)	UKS2 (Years 5 and 6)
Reading for pleasure books changed weekly. Rocket Phonics aligned (not weekly). Rocket Phonics book brought into school daily.		Levelled reading books in Year 3 and Year 4. Once beyond level 14, children are free to choose one longer book to take home.	

### Reading home records

**Listening to your child read at home is the single biggest factor in helping them to progress in school.** All children will be read to daily from their class reader, and all children heard to read by a 1-2-1 adult, (with feedback) at least once per fortnight. (In reality, your child will be heard reading to an adult almost daily through the course of our whole class reading lessons.)

Reception	KS1 (Years 1 and 2)	LKS2 (Years 3 and 4)	UKS2 (Years 5 and 6)
Children will be heard daily through their phonics teaching, blending and segmenting	Reading records should be brought in every day. All children will receive 1-2-1 feedback on their reading at least once every two-weeks Targeted children will receive 1-2-1 feedback either weekly or in some cases daily.		

### Spellings

All children from Year 1 to Year 6 are given spellings on a Friday and are tested the following Friday. In Years 1 and 2 these are linked to the Phonics sounds that they have learnt that week. In UKS2 these are grouped by word families and taken from the Department of Education's lists of Key Spellings for each year group.

### Maths (Number bonds and times tables tests)

Regular, weekly times tables test start from year 2. Children begin at the same numbers; however, some may get additional challenges to match their ability. Like listening to children read at home, teaching their number bonds to 10, 20 and 100 and the multiplication tables to 12, makes a HUGE impact to their success in maths. (*Number bonds are pairs of numbers that can be added together to make another number, for example,  $4 + 6 = 10$* )

Reception & Year 1	Year 2	LKS2 (Years 3 and 4)	UKS2 (Years 5 and 6)
No regular testing, but children need to be secure with number bonds to 20 and so families can help practice these at home.	Weekly tests that are marked and returned to the children. Children complete the 99 Club challenge so that they improve quick recall of number facts	Weekly times tables tests continue into Year 3 and increase in frequency in Year 4 until children complete their National Times Tables test in June.	Again, both year groups continue with weekly testing so that number facts can be quickly recalled and used to solve division and other practical maths problems.

### Additional Home Learning

From the parent survey there was mixed feedback into the amount and type of home learning that should be available, some families wanting more, some wanting none until Secondary school.

We have tried to satisfy both by creating a **NEW** optional selection of activities each term, to match the Class Challenge Pack that can supplement learning at home. These activities will be low stakes, and won't cause any additional cost to families, but will prompt children and adults to find out more information about their topic areas.

The first of these will be sent before the Autumn half-term.

Reception will still provide topics of discussion each week to aid speech and language. Upper Key Stage 2 will provide weekly homework and encourage children to complete (in preparation for Secondary School independence). We will also purchase and provide CGP SATs Revision Guides for all children in Year 6 that they can work through together in the Spring. Teachers will monitor the completion of homework in Year 5 and 6 but will not be expected to perform additional detailed marking or feedback.

Reception	KS1 (Years 1 and 2)	LKS2 (Years 3 and 4)	UKS2 (Years 5 and 6)
Weekly phonics set on Dojo. Talk homework (share something that you've learnt at school).	Only Spellings and times table practice.  Optional Challenge Pack activities (From Autumn Half-term)	Only Spellings and times table practice.  Optional Challenge Pack activities (From Autumn Half-term)	Maths sheet to support the following week's learning.  Punctuation and Grammar sheet linked to current English learning.  SATs revision booklets (in the Spring)

## Access to Curriculum, Medium Term Plans and Knowledge Organisers

Last week I sent electronic copies of our termly curriculum plans and maps of the subjects that will be covered. I will do this at the start of the Spring and Summer terms, and the school office are happy to provide printed versions at your request.

## Home communication and pupil recognition

**ParentMail:** Our official communications method. Our Newsletter is sent every two weeks, trip confirmations, school payments and school absences are all managed via ParentMail

**Class Dojo:** All classes use Dojo to motivate children's learning through collecting positive points. There is also a mechanism for teachers to celebrate and share learning and experience in school. Whilst parents can use Dojo to send short updates and messages to teachers, teachers are not compelled to respond via Dojo, especially as many messages come through either whilst they are teaching or during their personal time.

**Teacher access:** We welcome regular parent teacher communication. The best method is either to speak at the end of the day, or ask the school office to schedule a call/short meeting. All requests or complaints should start with the class teacher, before progressing in line with the Trust Complaints Procedure available on the school website.

**Twitter/X:** This is the best way to keep in touch with both our school and Trust events: @VicParkAcademy @VicAcademies

**Class assemblies and INSPIRE Sessions:** All classes will host at least one class assembly and an INSPIRE classroom visit each year (with additional winter shows, Year 6 Productions and pupil workshops) Calendar to share.

**Parent Workshops partnerships and signposting:** From before families start in Nursery our aim is to invite children and parents into school to feel at home. Throughout the year we will schedule workshops to support: Phonics, times tables, Early Reading and preparation for SATs. This year we are also partnering The Smethwick Family Hub to deliver family outreach support. Mrs. Mahal is also a dedicated member of staff with wide Sandwell links to signpost help and information.

**NEW Parent Forum and Headteacher email:** From this term we will create and host termly Parent Forums, after school opportunities for families to visit, ask questions and learn more about school choices and decisions. You can also contact me directly at any point via [headteacher@victoriaparkacademy.org.uk](mailto:headteacher@victoriaparkacademy.org.uk)

**Pupil rewards and recognition:** Finally, the way we encourage and communicate success. Dojo points are used to encourage participation and commitment to our five Trust Values. We have two weekly Values assemblies where certificates are shared. Class teachers can issue stickers in recognition of the Values, and the Midday Play Team also like to use stickers to encourage healthy eating and play.