

Hilltop Infant School

Hill Avenue
Wickford
SS11 8LT



Telephone: 01268 762531

Headteacher: Mrs. K. Mackenzie

Monday 23rd January 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to encourage you to continue supporting your child's learning at home.

For some time, we have been trying to improve the basic reading, writing and mathematical skills of the children in school and trying new methods to boost learning of these very practical and important life skills.

Staff at school work really hard to make education as enjoyable and rewarding as possible and are doing everything that they can to ensure that children achieve and develop to their full potential, recognising that everyone is individual. It has been found that children learn best where home and school work together to support them in order to prepare them at this early stage for their own ongoing life skills.

Just last week some new home learning packs were sent out which will reinforce the work being done in school time. This is a short initiative to help make a quick impact and raise levels to be more in line with national expectations. We ask for your help in completing these with your child. These are weekly tasks that are returned to school at the end of each week. Governors* and school leadership are monitoring the work and looking to see where improvements are happening and also to understand where further teaching and learning improvements can be made. As school Governors, it is part of our challenge to the school that the curriculum is followed and that children in our care develop to their best potential.

We recognise that our lives can be extremely busy at times, fitting in work, home and social activities etc. but we do request your co-operation in helping your own daughter or son with their learning. This is in line with the home – school agreement and homework policy.

I am sure that you will see the benefit to your son or daughter as a result of spending just a small amount of time throughout the week helping them learn. It doesn't need to be long periods at a time but it should be regular. It will also help them to get ready for out of school study as they move through their education.

“Homework,” refers to any work or activities, including reading that children are asked to do at home on their own or with an adult. Short activities provide a very important opportunity for young children to talk about what they are learning to an interested adult and to practice key skills in a supportive environment. Activities may be practical e.g. playing board games, reading games or written.



The driving force behind this is our desire to improve basic education for all the children that we have the privilege of having in our care and not about school data and results, although we also have to keep an eye on levels. Having been a parent of 2 boys who attended this school in the past and a governor here for 17 years, I genuinely believe that all the staff and Governors at our school really care about our children and want to see them get on.

Mrs Mackenzie, staff and Governors (some of whom are parents) have all had input into thinking how to improve learning for our pupils and are fully committed to doing their best for your child's early education.

Homework is important and part of school life, but helping children with their learning at home isn't always easy. The school has some ideas which can make homework easier and fun for everyone!

Please ask your class teacher in the first instance if you need any practical help. You can also ask at the office. Mrs Mackenzie and all teachers are happy to discuss homework activities and parental involvement. If parents and carers are unsure about how to support their child in the best way we would be only too pleased to talk with you. Where we are aware that parents or carers may need additional support with understanding homework activities, staff will arrange to meet with them on an individual basis.

Our Governors* are volunteers who work in partnership with the Headteacher and staff, ensuring that Hilltop Infant school is accountable to the community it serves. We do this by providing challenge, asking probing questions and monitoring the quality of education that the school is providing. We also provide constructive support for the school in its work.

Governors also exercise their responsibilities by undertaking monitoring visits to the school, which normally focus on particular subjects or areas of school development.

We appreciate all the support that you already give and I apologise if you have already returned the homework or are in the process of doing so. If circumstances have prevented you from starting on it so far, don't worry, but please make a start on it this week, as it will be in the best interest for your son or daughter for their future.

Kind regards



John Young
Chair

On behalf of Hilltop Infant School Governors