



September 2013

## KS2 Home Learning (Red books)

Each week the children will be asked to answer a question. They can answer it in any format they wish. The idea is that they can approach it from a point of view that interests them. Please remember it does not matter how your child chooses to respond to the task or the format they choose. There is not a "wrong way". The most important part is the discussion as a family and your child's enjoyment of enriching their learning.

Children can complete the tasks in any order they wish (please date the task chosen that week). A few starting ideas of how it could be presented have been included on the questions sheet but please don't feel limited by it. Over the half term it would be a good idea to have a range of different products. Please encourage children to include a written format regularly. Please comment on the sheet in the front of your child's book about the task they have chosen to do. Question sheets can also be found on Home Learning section of the school website.

The children can complete their work in this book or if the way they have interpreted it does not lend itself to paper they may want to bring something else in (e.g. a model they have made) or stick in a photo of their project (a play they have acted out, a place they have visited). It is important that the children ensure a high quality piece of work. However the questions should not be seen as weekly projects.

Home learning is due back on Thursdays. An important part of the process is the time we spend in school sharing the children's home learning books on Fridays. This allows them to see a variety of interpretations and "magpie" ideas from others.

There are endless ways in which the children could interpret the task; allow your child to use their imagination. Attached is a list of ways your child may like to present their home learning.

### Talk homework

This year at St. Catherine's we are introducing "Talk homework".

1. Once a fortnight children will bring home a TALK homework slip.
2. The TALK homework slip will tell you what the talk topic for homework is. Please encourage as many family members to take part, turn off the TV and spend 'special' time talking to your child.
3. This could involve having at least two meals a week when the TV is turned off and you all sit down together to eat (if you do not already).
4. The following are ways you could make your talk last longer and be more interesting:
  - Each give your own opinions on the subject
  - Use the 'because' word to explain why you think that.
  - Discuss why other family members not present might have a different idea.
  - Use the 'because' word to explain why they might have a different idea.
  - You could make links with how things were when you were young, or when your parents were young.
  - Discuss whether things may be different in the future.
  - Use 'wow' words. These are big words or interesting words. Tell the children what they mean if they do not know.

At the end of that week the children will be writing about the topic given for "Talk Homework" during their "Big Write" session. The premise of "Big Writing" is that if children can't *say it* then they can't *write it*, so the discussions you have at home will help to improve your child's writing.

## Home Learning Club

Miss Lightfoot and Mrs Castle will be holding "Home Learning" clubs in the Library on Monday and Wednesday lunchtimes at 12.30. Children may wish complete their home learning there if they need extra support, or may be invited if they continually have difficulty in completing their home learning.

### Possible ways to present home learning

Making 3D models (junk, lego...)  
PowerPoint  
Poem  
Memory Map  
Photographs  
Illustrations  
Collage  
playscripts  
cut and stick pictures from magazines etc  
made up games  
Recipes  
Puppet theatre  
Songs  
Drama sketch  
Zig Zag book  
Lift the flap questions/answers  
diaries  
Poster  
leaflets  
letters in envelopes (like the Jolly Postman)  
photos of themselves doing something practical/places they have been  
timelines  
labelled diagrams  
instructions  
cartoon strips  
fact lists  
speech bubbles  
word-processed work  
lists  
interviews (transcribed or taped)  
sorting games  
dominoes type games  
shopping games  
using digital camera to make a story or piece of writing with pictures  
A table of information