



This week:

Maths: The children completed the final papers from our first round of SATs. Doing these papers now really helps to see where there are gaps and what support the children need, so that they are in their own best possible position for starting high school.

The class also completed the hot task from our place value unit, the cold task for our next unit which is addition, subtraction, multiplication and division **and** they undertook some investigative work - which really tested their resilience!

English: In SPaG, we have been looking at how to correctly use commas, semi colons and colons. Hopefully we can put this to good use next week, when we start to complete the writing for our autobiographies!

For the autobiographies, we have continued planning, thinking about big achievements and what led to them, with a view to putting some of our funny stories in the build-up, to keep the audience entertained.

As always, if you have any questions or problems, please pop us an email at otter@hinghamprimary.org.uk

Coming Up:

Wednesday

High school taster day at Attleborough Academy.

- All children need a **packed lunch** and **water bottle**.

- Please wear **normal school uniform** (not PE kit).

- Children will be responsible for their belongings throughout the day so please ensure everything is named.

Thursday

PE day

Normal Thursday with Mr Shackleton teaching in the afternoon.

Reminders:

- Children need a **waterproof coat** (preferably with a hood), **wellies/spare shoes** and a **water bottle** in school, **every day**. Spare socks are also a good idea, particularly for children who have “spare shoes” rather than wellies. On wet days, spare shoes keep mud out of the classroom but don’t always keep feet dry. Spare socks will prevent anyone from having wet feet through the afternoon.
- **No “fidgets”** etc to be brought in from home.
- **Names should be written in/on everything**, so we can get any lost items back to you quickly.
- **Fruit and veg** snacks for break time only, please. **No nuts at any time**.
- Children need to bring their things in a **bag, every day**.

I'm aware that some parents don't always receive the newsletters through parentmail. I will try to pop the newsletter onto the class webpage each week so you can find any you've missed or refer back to anything.

Homework

Now that we've all had chance to settle back into school and have had the residential, it's time to start working extra hard on being ready for the next step. The next part of that is the commencement of **homework!** Some of the children are really excited about it (I'm sure the novelty will soon wear off!) and others are really not loving the idea (sorry!). I hope those children quickly realise that it is for their benefit and it's not as taxing as they imagine it will be.

When and what:

- **Set every Friday and due in the following Friday.**
- **Children write the due date next to the correct pages in the contents page.** I also do this in my book under the visualiser, so they can all be absolutely sure they've written the right date in the right place.
- **They have 3 books** (grammar, maths and reading comprehension) and are **usually set homework from 2** out of the 3 books, each week.
 - Generally, it is 2 pages from each of the 2 books. It might be a double page or 2 separate pages. Occasionally it might be 3 pages from one of the books and 2 from the other but when this happens you will see that the questions are less involved, so the amount of work is the same as usual.

Completing and marking:

- **We check that the homework is completed on Friday morning.** If it isn't, **children will stay in** for part of break and/or part of lunch to complete it.
 - I know this isn't always popular and I do always feel bad keeping children in when they're adamant they've done the homework but have just forgotten their books. However, we mark the homework as a class on Friday afternoon. If they haven't got a completed piece of homework in front of them then they cannot participate in the learning, which is why it **must be done**. Also, the consequences of missing homework are more severe in secondary school and there is also significantly more homework each week. As with anything new, mistakes will happen, which is why now is the perfect time to learn and get into good habits, ready for high school.

Independence and support:

- We are aiming for **independence**. The responsibility for doing homework and remembering to bring it in **must fall to the children**. Obviously as parents, we want to help our children to be successful. A little nudge is great but success means being able to remember for themselves and motivate themselves to get it done.
- **Homework club happens every Tuesday.**
 - Children are welcome to do homework in the classroom on Tuesday lunchtime. This might be because they'd just rather complete it at school, want a quiet space or because they need some help.
- **Help is always available.** I'm there each lunchtime to help anyone who has looked at their homework and decided they need a bit of help.
 - **Friday morning is too late to say they didn't understand the homework.** I will keep reminding them to look at their homework sooner than Thursday night; please also encourage them to look earlier.
- If children are **struggling to read the questions**, please feel free to help them with that.
 - If they are **struggling to answer the questions**, please encourage them to **come and speak to me**. As their teacher, **it's important for me to know what they have found difficult**. I'm also best placed to support them using methods that are deemed "best practice." We have found in the past that parent help or google, can confuse children and cause misconceptions or errors later on. While help from home or google might support them to answer a question or complete a task, as teachers we know where a subject is going and it might be that there is an important reason for us to teach something in a particular way.

"If there is no struggle, there is no progress." – Frederick Douglass