



Dear Parents and Carers,

This week started with a very moving and significant moment in history. I am sure that the Queen's funeral may have caused lots of questions and discussions with younger members of your families, as it did in my own house. We have lots of books and resources that tackle the issue of grief, so if you do feel your child needs support, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher.

I hope that your children are enjoying our delicious new menu, as much as we are! The team in the kitchen are working extremely hard and have created tasty meals! One thing we would request is that parents discuss their bookings for meals with their children in advance as this can be an issue when children are saying they don't like particular meals or types of food. As the kitchen are making fresh meals to order, it makes it impossible to change food options on the day.

Some of you may be wondering about homework (or hoping that it never returns)! Homework is a tricky thing: for many busy families it can be an extra thing on the never-ending list, and for staff it very rarely reflects what our children can do independently, either because it has been completed with the pressure of time, or with a significant amount of adult support. After gathering parent and carers' opinions about homework, and discussions with staff, we will be moving ahead with the following:

- **We would like you to prioritise reading at home. We would LOVE if you could listen to your child read every day.** Whether they are three or eleven, the importance of listening to a child read aloud is huge. It helps to highlight complex words they may be mispronouncing, or even that they are struggling to decipher. It is also a fantastic opportunity to ask a couple of quick questions to check that they are understanding what they are reading. It is amazing how many children feel the pressure to pick a thick book, but secretly do not enjoy or understand it, when actually, we would far rather they read for pleasure, than anything else. We would like reading to be a priority, as it has a positive impact on EVERY subject and it is a vital life skill. Even if your child reads three pages whilst you make the tea, it still creates an opportunity to develop so many skills, and I know lots of our parents listen to their children read in the car whilst they wait for the gates to open and before they get extremely tired!
- **We will not be setting weekly spelling lists to learn**, because children often learn them in order, but very rarely apply them. **Instead, we will be sending home the list of the statutory words lists or Little Wandle half-termly assessment feedback sheets and highlighting which words or spelling patterns your child is not confident in spelling or applying.** This helps support spelling gaps and is something that is used particularly when assessing children in Year Six in preparation for SATs.
- We will be sending home a half termly homework pack to complete throughout the half term, and to hand it at the end of the half term. Packs will be sent out next Friday.
- Year Two and Year Six will receive SATs packs/books instead of the half termly packs, to help support children and parents and carers during throughout their statutory testing year.

We have done this to try and maximise the impact of homework, and to prioritise reading as much as possible. We will be trialling this so we will welcome feedback, as always.

We will be having building work start in October for our brand-new Year Six toilet blocks, and although it will make the school grounds a little busier, we can't wait for new and improved facilities.

Don't forget to submit any nominations for Parent Governors - this can be sent to: [Jodie.Cooper@taw.org.uk](mailto:Jodie.Cooper@taw.org.uk) this is an opportunity to help shape our school and share ideas of how we can improve and develop. We have not received any applications, which means we would have two parent vacancies available.

Well done to our Under 9s football team who won 5 -0 against St Peters Bratton, and thank you to Miss Brown and Miss Biddulph who led the team and to all of the parents who supported the evening!

We hope you have a wonderful weekend, and that the weather stays bright and sunny!

Many thanks,

Mrs Cooper

Head of School

