



Briar Road, Shepperton
Middlesex, TW17 0JB
Tel: 01932 563035
Fax: 01932 566830

Email: info.saxon@lumenlearningtrust.co.uk
Website: www.saxonprimary.co.uk

Headteachers: Mrs B. Davis M.A. & Miss N. Morris BA (Hons)
Executive Principal: Mrs M.E. McCarthy MA; Ed.M

Monday 10th January 2022

Changes to Home Learning for Years 1-5

Dear Saxon Families,

At Saxon, we believe that home learning has a positive impact, not just on children’s academic ability but on their skills of self-directed learning and independence that will serve them well throughout their life. We also always receive feedback from the secondary schools our children move onto about how well-prepared Saxon children are for Year 7, and the home learning expectations this brings.

We regularly review this provision to ensure it has an impact on children’s progress, is manageable for families and to also consider the amount of time teachers have to prepare and monitor the learning against the impact the learning is having. Towards the end of the Autumn Term, we carried out one of these reviews which has shown a significant drop in the number of children consistently completing the learning at home since we moved to setting it via Google Classroom. This review also showed that the majority of children who completed their home learning on a regular basis were achieving age-related expectations at the end of term; particularly in terms of Reading. It also highlighted that children who are not completing home learning or reading at all are often working below age-related expectations. Children who read every day at home make more progress than their peers who do not read at home. Home learning in isolation is not the reason for good progress, but it does support it. The role of families at home supporting children in completing home learning also supports children’s progress and we rely on working in partnership with parents to achieve the best outcomes for the children.

Feedback from a snapshot of parents has also indicated they find accessing Google Classroom challenging, particularly if they have more than one child and only one device available, and prefer the previous way home learning was set.

Given all of this information and the importance we place on home learning, we are changing the home learning expectations for children in Years 1-5. Here are the new processes for home learning, there is also a table at the bottom of this letter for clarification:

Years 1&2 – from Monday 10th January

Daily Home Learning Mon - Thurs

Reading

A minimum of 10 minutes per day – see the letter from Mrs Vale regarding changes to reading at home that is attached to this letter.

Maths

Daily number facts practice. At the top of the daily number facts sheet, there will also be a counting focus



for the week and a Saxon Maths website link for the children to practise at home. These will be sent home every Monday and children are expected to complete one list per day (M-Th) and return their folder to school on a Friday morning. This is consolidation and rehearsal of learning in school. Children should be able to work through it mostly independently. We ask parents to review their child's answers and discuss any incorrect answers with them. They will not be marked by teachers although staff will look through the folders on a Friday for any clear misconceptions that need addressing.

Weekly Home Learning Thurs – Tues

Phonics

Phonics learning is fundamental to children's reading and writing development. Therefore, rather than a writing menu, the children will be sent home with a 'spelling menu' of activities to support their phonics learning. Each child will be given a key ring* which contains the tricky words they need to learn. Each week, children are asked to complete one activity from the menu and submit evidence of this to their class teacher. Depending on the activity chosen, you can send in the written learning or post a photo on Google Classroom, or send the photo of the activity/learning into school. Teachers will choose a sample of activities submitted to share with the whole class throughout the term.

*as I'm sure you will appreciate, the creation of these key rings has been a mammoth task and Year 2's are not quite finished. We hope to have these ready soon but in the meantime, the Year 2 tricky words are also included in the spelling menu information.

Years 3, 4 & 5

Daily Home Learning Mon – Thurs

Reading

A minimum of 15 minutes per day. This can be a book from school, a book from home or from the school/public library. The children are also expected to record their reflections in their reading journals and adults can use the list of 'VIPERS' questions stuck inside their journal to discuss the book with their child. Whilst your child may be a confident and competent reader and may not read aloud to you in the same way they did in KS1, they should still have the opportunity to discuss what they have read with an adult. Please use the questions in their journals to support this discussion.

Maths – from Monday 24th January (will be uploaded to Google Classroom today and on the 17th)

Daily number facts practice. This will be sent home every Monday and children are expected to complete one list per day (M-Th) and return their folder to school on a Friday morning. This is consolidation and rehearsal of learning in school. Children should be able to work through this mostly independently. We ask parents to review their child's answers and discuss any incorrect answers with them as this will not be marked by teachers, although staff will look through the folders on a Friday for any clear misconceptions that need addressing.

Weekly Home Learning Thurs – Tues

Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling

Your child will be provided with a CGP workbook which contains questions and exercises to complete relating to these three writing skills. This will come home on a Thursday and be due in on a Tuesday. The class teacher will identify the pages that need completing during this time. We ask for your support in checking through your child's answers as the books will not be marked by teachers. Staff will look through the books when they come in on a Tuesday for any clear misconceptions that need addressing, but please encourage your child to speak to their teacher about anything they found challenging or need help with. This will support their independence with their learning.

Maths

Your child will also be provided with a CGP Maths book called '10-minute weekly workouts'. Again, they will be set a 'workout' to complete by the class teacher and the same process will apply regarding the marking and checking of this learning.

The children will no longer receive a writing menu, however, they are very welcome to complete pieces of writing at home if they wish to and share them with their class teacher.

These books are currently on order and will hopefully arrive in time for children to begin using them from Thursday 20th January. In the meantime, a writing menu will be uploaded to Google Classroom today as an alternative, alongside their maths facts.

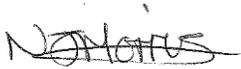
Please encourage your child to look after their CGP books. Families are liable for a £5 fee per book for any lost or significantly damaged books.

Home learning certificates will be awarded at the end of each half term to children who have completed their home learning every week. These will be handed out in Key Stage assemblies.

Please note, learning for children isolating due to Covid-19 will continue to be uploaded to Google Classroom.

If you have any queries about the home learning for your child, please speak to their class teacher.

Yours sincerely,



Miss Morris
Headteacher

	Years 1 & 2	Years 3, 4 & 5
Daily	10 minutes reading & discussion of text with an adult Maths facts – 1 column per day	15 minutes reading & discussion of text with an adult Maths facts – 1 column per day
Weekly	Phonics & spelling menu activity – minimum 1 per week but you can do more if you wish to	Assigned pages from the Maths CGP book Assigned pages from the Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling CGP book