

September 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

We are writing to let you know about homework in both Nursery and Reception.

Nursery

You and Me Tasks – fortnightly: This is a task to do together with your child and will relate to the topic work within the Early Years Unit.

Reading Bag: This is book bag containing a story, poetry or non-fiction book for you to share with your child. Talking about the books and reading them together at bedtime is a great way to spend 10 minutes together and begin the process of learning to read.

Number Fun: Over the year the EYFS staff will be developing number fun bags for you to share at home. As these are developed you will receive a number fun bag fortnightly alternating with the reading bag.

Eg. Week 1- You and Me Task, Week 2 – Reading Bag, Week 3 – You and Me Task, Week 4 – Number Fun.

Reception

Reading

We strongly encourage the children to read on a daily basis. Even 10 minutes a day will support your child's reading and develop their love of books especially when reading additional books to the school texts sent home. Reading books should be brought into school every day and will be changed on a weekly basis by your child's adult reader.

Reading books will begin to be sent home after October half term. The books may be pictures books until your child is ready for a book with text. Talking about the pictures and telling the story orally is a great way to become a reader!

You and Me Tasks – fortnightly: This is a task to do together with your child and will relate to the topic work within the Early Years Unit. Where possible we include a maths challenge if the task is not focused on maths. Also included is the fun challenge of '100 things to do before Year 1' – you are welcome to record these in the books as you tick them off your list.

Maths: This will either be a maths challenge on the bottom of the You and Me Task or be the focus of the task. It may be a fun problem solving activity, practical experience or mental maths work to support your child's

knowledge of numbers, facts or counting. Please see the non-negotiables that form the basis of our maths homework. <http://www.archibaldfirstschool.org.uk/parents-information/support-topics/>

Key Words - weekly: There is a strong focus on children learning their key words. This is for their reading development and in time will impact on their writing. Your child will receive up to six new words a week to learn. This will depend on your child and when they are ready. Some words are those that can be sounded out (black) whilst others will be tricky words which just have to be learnt on sight (red). Try playing flashcards, matching pairs, jumping on the right word or popping them on post it notes around the house to encourage your child to learn them in a fun way.

Please glue these into your child's Sound Books when they are sent home.

Sound Books – weekly: The children take part in daily phonics sessions. When they are ready they will receive a sound books with new sounds included. The new sounds will be added when your child is ready for additional sounds to learn at home.

Please glue these into your child's Sound Books when they are sent home.

Handwriting – weekly: At school we follow a handwriting scheme as correct letter formation is so important. We will send home a short handwriting activity sheet to support your child's letter formation and presentation. Writing the letters in wet sand, shaving foam, on a mum or dad's palm or back or using a painted finger makes letter formation fun and messy!!!

The Early Years team will be holding a Reading and Phonics Meeting for parents on Tuesday 17th October, 6-7pm. More information will follow.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Bayes and Mrs Turner