

September 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

### **Nursery and Reception Homework at Archibald**

We are writing to let you know about homework in both Nursery and Reception for 2018-19.

#### **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 - fortnightly:** 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.

**Homework Pattern:** Week 1- You and Me Task, Week 2 – Reading Bag, Week 3 – You and Me Task, Week 4 – Reading Bag.

**Maths:** Our Maths Monkeys will set regular maths challenges and investigations linked to the maths we are doing in class. Each child will have the opportunity to take the Maths Monkey home to record what they have found out.

#### **Reception**

##### **Reading**

We strongly encourage the children to read on a daily basis. 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.

*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:** Every half term your child will get a set of maths challenges stuck into their You and Me book. These might be a fun problem solving activity, practical experience or mental maths work to support your child’s knowledge of numbers, facts or counting.

These challenges are for you to work on throughout the half term and to date when your child has completed them. Any recording can be made in their You and Me book.

Please see the non-negotiables that form the basis of our maths homework.

<http://www.archibaldfirstschool.org.uk/parents-information/support-topics/>

The aims of the You and Me book are;

- Homework is valued by the children, school and home.
- To keep homework together.
- To provide a place to record work, and comments from home.

### **Expectations and Routines:**

- On return to school, staff will collect books in and all homework completed will be stamped and acknowledged. Homework will not be marked in depth. Common misconceptions will be addressed in class with the children.
- If parents have a query about homework, we ask that they come into school and discuss it with the teacher in person.
- Whilst we encourage parents to record comments in the homework books regarding their child’s understanding and completion of the task, please note that this should not be seen as a means of communication between home and school.

**Key Words:** 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 new words linking to their phonics learning. How many they receive and then 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. These will be sent home in a small vocab book.

**Sound Books:** 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 and keep referring to them to ensure your child is familiar with the new sounds.

**Handwriting :** 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!!! Please note that handwriting practise does not need to be returned to school.

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

Yours sincerely

Mrs Bayes and Mrs Turner



# Ideas for making sounds and words interesting

<p><b>Can you write them in the steamed up mirror before they disappear?</b></p>	<p><b><i>Play snap with two sets of words or letters.</i></b></p>	<p><u>Please let us know of any ideas you have?</u></p>
<p>Use bath crayons and write them in the bath tub.</p>	<p>How fast can you read the word? Are you quicker than an adult helper?</p>	<p><b>Put them on post it notes around the house. Move them around everyday.</b></p>
<p><u>OUR FAVOURITE</u> Write the words in melted chocolate, shaving foam or flour.</p>	<p><b>Make the words with alphabet spaghetti or using magnetic letters</b></p>	<p>Photocopy the words to make a matching pairs and play a game with an adult or sibling</p>

<http://www.familylearning.org.uk/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/wordsandpictures/index.shtml>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/curations/alphablocks-stage-1>

<https://www.youtube.com/user/KidsTV123>

# Maths ideas for counting and number work

<p>Counting in steps of 1, 2, 5 or 10: 5x Drop 5 pence coins into a tin and count in fives; 5, 10, 15... Use 1p, 2p or 10p coins for these tables. How fast can you do it? Can you count backwards?</p>	<p>Pick a domino – Can you add the two sides together or subtract one number from the other? How quickly can you do this?</p>	<p>Count in steps of 1, 2, 5 or 10 (when ready) going up and down the stairs to bed. Tray starting at a different number to 0 or 1.</p>
<p><a href="http://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/3-5-years/counting">http://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/3-5-years/counting</a> <a href="http://www.crickweb.co.uk/Early-Years.html">http://www.crickweb.co.uk/Early-Years.html</a> <a href="http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/5RMpbn1X8tMkMQgw0GRhz8L/early-years-foundation-stage-eyfs">http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/5RMpbn1X8tMkMQgw0GRhz8L/early-years-foundation-stage-eyfs</a> <a href="http://mathszone.co.uk/count-and-understand">http://mathszone.co.uk/count-and-understand</a> <a href="http://www.ictgames.com/resources.html">http://www.ictgames.com/resources.html</a></p>	<p>Play track games such as snake and ladders for counting and number recognition</p>	<p><b>Playing Cards</b> <b>Play cards as a family – matching pairs for number recognition, add two cards together or pick cards to make a given total,</b></p>
<p>Talk about time using the language of today, yesterday, before, after, tomorrow, later...</p>	<p><b>Invest in a maths CD and listen to it in the car or at bedtime. Learning to music is very effective!</b></p>	<p><i>Great ways of learning about money:</i> <i>Count the money in your money box</i> <i>Ask an adult to show you their change – Can you recognise the coins? Pick three and find the total.</i> <i>Pay for items in a shop.</i></p>

