



# CANFORD HEATH INFANT and JUNIOR SCHOOLS

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TEACH Trust Poole

Trust Excellence Aspiration Collaboration Honesty

Article 29: Children have the right to develop their personality and talents to the full.

23<sup>rd</sup> November 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

As you are hopefully aware, we hold regular parent forum meetings. The parent forum is made up of a range of parent volunteers from each of our schools and we come together once a term to discuss what is happening in the schools and to answer any questions or queries that the parents have. The meeting is chaired by the Trust chair of Trustees and is attended by all the headteachers and the CEO.

In our recent meeting, the topic of the home learning projects was raised and this led to discussion amongst us all at the meeting, and then further discussions with Year Leaders outside of the meeting. We felt that it would be useful to share with all parents what has been agreed.

### Why do we include home-learning projects in our curriculum?

We have developed a broad and balanced curriculum which builds in a sequential way. We have included all the key areas however, there may be areas of a topic that we simply do not have time to cover. These areas may be of interest to some children and they may want to investigate this area of a topic in the home-learning project. Or, if an area of particular interest is covered in the topic, the project allows for the children to reinforce their understanding, or delve a little deeper into the area. The projects also allow children to be more creative, or technical than they sometimes can be in the classroom. For example, they may be experts on Scratch or PowerPoint and create a project using these programmes and so rehearsing their ICT skills too. Or they may be particularly creative and choose to design and make a model or a large poster. It is a great way for the children to make a choice about how to best present information, which is a skill in itself.

### When are the home learning projects set?

We appreciate that school weeks are busy and that often time is limited. Therefore, the home-learning project is always set and explained in curriculum newsletters which comes out on the last school day of a half-term. The reason for this is that it gives families the holidays to have a think about what the project may be and to get started, if they wish. Alongside the outline in the curriculum newsletter there will also be a sheet sent home with the project task outlined, possible ideas for what to do and success criteria. This is to help support you and your child in thinking through the project and what they could do.

### When are the home-learning projects due in?

The parent forum raised that it would be useful to have a longer window in which to bring the projects in. Therefore, we have agreed that we will give a week beginning date for them to be due. The projects can be brought into school at any time during this week, but must be all in school by the end of the week.

### How are the projects celebrated and shared?

We recognise and appreciate the time and effort that goes into these projects and know it is important that they are shared and celebrated. Each child will have time to show their project to their class, where they can tell them about why they chose to do what they have and also the challenges they faced, how



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they overcame it and what they learnt along the way! There will also be set exhibitions throughout the year, 2 or 3 per year group, where parents will be invited into school at the end of the day to view the work of the children - not just the projects but also the class work for that project. We will also create a class or year group picture video of photographs for the home-learning that will go onto our school social media pages and also the school website year group gallery pages.

### **Are the projects compulsory?**

Yes, the projects are compulsory to complete and form part of the school's homework expectations. Please however, do not feel that each half-term you need to create a large and elaborate model with lights, moving parts and a musical accompaniment! The project should be the work of your child as the purpose is to engage the children further in the topic and to allow self-directed learning, which is a life-long skill. However, the class teacher will expect some work to be completed and handed in. It is also a fantastic opportunity, for those of you who can, to work with your child in creating something together to be proud of.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Year Leaders, who will happily answer any queries. I hope that this is useful and will clear up any confusion surrounding the projects.

Yours faithfully



Mr Wilson  
Headteacher



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