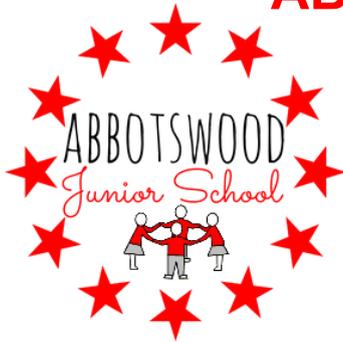


ABBOTSWOOD JUNIOR SCHOOL

'Helping **everyone** achieve their best'



'It Really Does Matter'

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Headteacher: Mr G Moore

Tuesday 11th October

Year 3 Home Learning

Space Race Reading Challenge

Dear Parents and Carers,

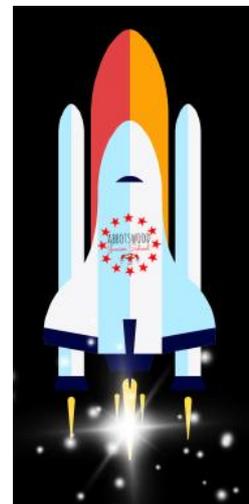
Last week marked the start of your child's compulsory home learning. This letter will outline what is expected of your child each week.

5...4...3...2...1... Blast Off! The Space Race has begun!

What is the Space Race?

The Space Race is the name of Abbotswood's reading home learning challenge. Participating in the race will mean that your child will be rewarded for their reading efforts at home.

Your child's classroom will contain a display linked to this home learning challenge. Every child in the year group has a rocket with their name on that starts on Earth. It is your child's goal through the year to move their rocket across 5 planets in our solar system before leaving the galaxy:



Each planet marks a milestone that your child will reach at the end of each half term **if they read three times a week**. On reaching a planet, your child will be awarded with a certificate and a space-themed prize.

What must my child and I do each week?

Your child will be required to **read three times a week at home**. Each time they read, please support them to record the book and the pages they have read into their reading diary. They will need to hand their reading diary to their class teacher on a **Thursday** each week. The class teacher will record the number of times they have read as 'jumps' towards their next planet.

The maximum number of 'jumps' a child can make towards their next planet each week is 3. However, we recognize that there are a lot of children who will want to read more than this and so additional reading entries will earn your child house points.

Please try to get your child into the habit of bringing their reading diary into school every day. If they read with an adult in school, the adult will make an entry into their diary.

Banded books

All of our Year 3 children sat a short, reading assessment in their first week at Abbotswood. This allowed us to identify children who are slightly behind where they should be in their reading age. These children have been permitted to take home one of our Project X banded books. Children on this scheme in previous years have made accelerated progress with many of them catching up to their chronological age very quickly. Reading these books with your child at home will count towards the Space Race.



Maths



Last week, your child was sent home with log in details for the Times Tables Rock Stars website.

What does my child need to do?

Each child is required to play at least 5 games a week. TTRS can be accessed on any device that can access the internet, including phones.



When will my child's participation on the website be checked?

Every day, your child's class teacher will record and celebrate who has played the previous night. Your child will have until **Friday** each week to play a minimum of 5 games.

How will my child be rewarded?

Every child who plays at least 5 games will go into a weekly raffle which will give them the chance to earn 50 house points for their house! There is also the opportunity for one child each week to win 'Star of the Week', which will earn them 50 house points and the opportunity to wear a special lanyard in school.

The interactive game gives our children the opportunity to experience regular, meaningful practice of their times tables and the corresponding division facts. Like with reading, knowing times table facts is a vital life skill. Practicing them now will also place your child in good stead for the compulsory National Timetables Test that all children sit at the end of Year 4.

The National Curriculum aims for all children to have a secure understanding of specific times tables at certain points in their schooling:

End of Year 2: children should know their 2, 5 and 10 times tables

End of Year 3: children should know their 3, 4 and 8 times tables

End of Year 4: children should know all of their times tables up to 12x12

The first stage is being able to count in the times table from zero before moving on to recalling them out of sequence. Children should also be able to recall the corresponding division facts i.e. $144 \div 12 = 12$.

Reading and times tables form the foundations for children's learning and regular, weekly practice will support them in their day to day learning. We really appreciate all of the support that you can provide.

Yours sincerely,

Mr E Humphries
Year 3 Leader.