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To all Parents/Carers,

14/6/19

One of the most common questions teaching staff get asked by parents/carers is 'how can we help at home?' For each child and for each year group the answer could well be totally different but what we are working on at the moment is a booklet which will attempt to give you as much of a headstart at the beginning of the year as possible. In it, for example, you will find a section called 'Need to Knows'; which will include useful hints and tips about the year group your child is going in to and what to expect. This could be things like which day your child does PE on, what time snack is (if they get one), when assemblies are etc etc. We will also be including information about the curriculum and what we hope, as a minimum, your child will know and understand by the end of the year. However, if we as a staff had to say three little things that really help your child at school then they would be:

- Listen to/read with your child every day (this may occur less as they get older – but we still recommend it!!)
- Help your child learn their times tables (2x, 3x, 4x all the way up to 12x) as soon as possible – it's never too early to start and 'TT Rockstars' is brilliant!
- Help your child to tell the time

With this last one, and perhaps it is a sign of the times, we notice in school how few children wear a watch (digital or analogue). Nowadays more people tend to use their phones, computers or their tablets to check the time and the skill of telling the time on a clock face is becoming less and less necessary. Indeed, telling the time, as we have found out over the last few years, is the one area in Maths that seems to divide our Y6 children down the middle – those who understand it and those who really struggle. We have also noticed that confidence in Maths, which is so important, is sometimes eroded away by a lack of times tables knowledge – with so many areas linked to times tables it can have quite a big impact yet it is something that can really improve with regular practice.

And as for Reading, daily reading just reinforces a love of books and that has always been a real strength of the school – how much the children love to read!

Speaking of books, I have heard that Derby Book Festival was a huge success last week and quite a few children and adults have asked me to recommend '**Create Your Own Happy**' by Penny Alexander (see right).

It has lots of useful tips for children and lots of interaction (colouring in, doodle sections etc). We are hoping to try and build a few workshops around this next year with Penny so watch this space!

Lastly, another reminder about our curriculum survey, all feedback on this matter is really helpful:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/XD39SLY>

Have a good weekend,

Mr I. Johnson

