

# NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNCIL

# **Pickering Community Junior School**

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Monday 8th September 2025

Dear parents and carers

This week the children will receive their home learning books and the first Home Learning grids for the Autumn term. As a school, we believe that home learning is a vital part of a child's education and helps foster a strong home-school bond. Home learning in Key Stage 2 is about much more than just extra work—it's a chance to reinforce learning, foster independence and nurture lifelong skills and habits—all supported by strong educational research evidence.

#### The home learning children will receive

Each week, children are asked to:

- Read three times for twenty minutes, recorded in their planner and signed by an adult.
- Complete one task from the Home Learning Grid.

After Christmas, Year 6 children will receive weekly English and Maths tasks in preparation for SATs.

Children could also practise their times tables using TimesTables Rockstars (login in planners) and review any tricky spellings noted in their planner.

## How we encourage children to complete their home learning

To celebrate effort and consistency with reading every week, the children are offered:

- Three weekly reads = a raffle ticket for the half-term prize draw.
- The class with the most collective reads earns the special reading trolley for the following week.

For every read missed, children will complete five minutes of catch-up reading during break with a reading buddy, to a maximum of fifteen minutes. If a child is absent, they will not be expected to complete their reading catch-up, but please speak with the class teacher if there are other circumstances to consider on a weekly basis.

Each Home Learning Grid shows the recommended number of tasks for the half term (adjusted for each half term's length). Completing this target also earns a reward.

#### A flexible approach:

We know family life can be busy. While weekly home learning is preferred, the half-term total on the Home Learning Grid allows for flexibility and less worry if a task is missed. Teachers can also adapt home learning expectations to meet individual children's needs—please contact your child's class teacher if you'd like to discuss a more personalised approach.

















#### Why home learning is important:

Research from the Education Endowment Foundation shows that home learning helps children practise key skills, deepen understanding, and prepare for lessons—building greater independence as learners. Over time, regular homework has been shown to add up to five additional months' academic progress.

The Education Policy Institute found home learning also develops valuable habits such as self-discipline and time management, which support success in secondary school. Simple activities at home, like reading and storytelling, further strengthen children's confidence, communication, and social-emotional skills.

## **Working together:**

Please find a copy of our most recent home learning policy attached to this letter with further details of our home learning expectations.

Home learning is most effective when school and home work in partnership. By supporting your child with reading, talking about their learning, and encouraging them to complete set tasks, you are helping them to build confidence, independence, and strong learning habits. Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs R Hall

**Deputy Headteacher** 















