

Dear Parent/ Carer,

As we welcome a fresh start with the new academic year, we feel it is right to keep you well informed on practices within school which will hopefully answer any questions you may have regarding your child's exercise books. There have been a few instances in school where we have tweaked our practice to ensure we are working in line with the most relevant and recent research on the most effective classroom practice, and also as part of the nationwide review of teacher workload.

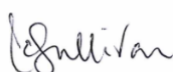
At Dame Elizabeth Cadbury we acknowledge that different subjects will need to give 'feedback' to pupils on their work in different ways, what works in maths will be very different to what works well in English for example. Research also shows that 'ticking' a pupil's work has no impact on progress, and also that lengthy written comments from teachers to students, take an inordinate amount of time for little impact. It is important that our teachers focus on what matters most- the quality of what happens inside their classrooms. With this in mind, we write to keep you informed on what you can expect to see in your child's books. We operate a system in which teachers will provide written feedback at regular intervals, which will appear in books on blue or yellow paper. Pupils are given 'medals'- what they have done well, 'missions'- areas of knowledge/ skills where they need to improve next time, and then they will be set 'actions' which may involve specific re-do tasks, re-drafting and improving or answering questions to show understanding once their teacher has re-taught specific content/skills. Our guidance for staff is based on research by Sutton Trust on providing the most effective feedback to pupils. In light of this, not all feedback your child will be through written marking- it will very often take place in the classroom, be verbal and use model answers and success criteria, so our pupils become independent and feel confident on how to improve their own work. At all times your child should be able to answer the following two questions:

- What am I doing well in this subject?
- What do I need to do to improve my work in this subject?

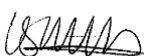
Additionally, our school approach to homework is also based on research, in line with teacher workload recommendations, and is available on the school website. Homework is not marked, but checked for completion and quality- feedback is given to pupils via modelling excellence and self-assessment, again to ensure our teachers have the capacity to create lessons for our pupils that are planned and delivered to the highest standard, at all times. Your son/ daughter will always have more than 24 hours to complete their homework, and all homework will be carefully recorded in planners by pupils. We no longer use an online platform for homework, as we have found planners to be most effective- therefore it is essential that you check homework planners with your child on a weekly basis as a minimum expectation from school. Any concerns or queries can be recorded in the pupil planner so teachers, Form Tutors and Heads of House are aware of any important messages.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us via the school enquiries email – enquiry@decschool.co.uk.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs L Sullivan
Senior Assistant Headteacher



Ms. K Shahmiri
Senior Assistant Headteacher



Mr M Dunn
Head Teacher