MASTERY LEARNING FOLDER HOMEWORK

Dear Parents

As a part of our homework program we are introducing Mastery Learning Folders to individualise the consolidation of classroom learning.

As we teach and post-test learning programs, we will be able to identify learning content that needs further practice. We will add this content, in the form of flashcards, to the “Store” pocket of your child’s folder and transfer the appropriate number of flashcards into the first active pocket, called the “Hive”. This *learning load* will vary from child to child - we ask that you allow us to monitor their learning and please see us if you feel that your child’s learning load needs to be adjusted.

The Mastery Learning Folder process is very simple and should take about five minutes to complete.

**Step 1.** First, test the flashcards in the Hive, and (as they move through the folder) those in the flower pockets. (These are called the *active* pockets.) If your child identifies the content eg phonics sounds or answers correctly, the bee (flashcard) moves to the next flower (pocket) going across the folder. If your child answers incorrectly, the bee (flashcard) remains in or returns to the Hive, which allows more time for learning the content.

**Step 2.** Spend a few minutes talking about and learning the material.

This process repeats each homework night. It is important that the flashcards are tested before the revision starts to demonstrate whether or not the content has been remembered since the last session.

Eventually the flashcards will begin to arrive at the Test pocket. As each flashcard arrives at the Test pocket, your child moves a new flashcard from the Store pocket into the Hive. This means that the learning load will be maintained (the same number of flashcards will be circulating in the folder). The flashcards in the Test pocket are no longer reviewed - they wait for the teacher test which will be approximately every fortnight.

After the teacher test, the flashcards will move to the M pocket (“Mastered”) or return to the Hive if further consolidation is needed (this is not usually the case if nightly testing has occurred first as they only move forward if they have been remembered). As classroom testing occurs throughout the year, your child may receive particular flashcards based on their needs for remediation, consolidation or extension in different learning areas. The flashcards are usually self-explanatory, eg Count by 10 to 100 but please ask if you are unsure of what to do. These flashcards enable your child to get individualised one-on-one practice that is highly beneficial to their learning progress.

This mastery learning folder strategy is quick but it does depend on regular homework sessions. It works well to choose a time that suits both you and your child and make the folder homework a part of your daily routine eg straight after snack time, bath or breakfast. Sticker chart templates are available from the Mastery Learning Group website should you wish to use them. There are also videos that demonstrate the Mastery Learning Folder process if you would like to see the folder in action. Please protect the folder by keeping it in a document wallet and return it to your child’s bag after each homework session in case we need to top up the Store pocket at school.

We welcome your feedback on the learning experience for your child and please ask if you have any further questions.