

Welcome to our monthly Learning Newsletter where we seek to share some of the initiatives and strategies we use in school so you might best support your child in their education, in order to benefit your child and further enhance their educational experiences in the long term.

Low Stakes Tests

Have you heard your child refer to 'low stakes tests' and wondered what they are?

These are simply tests we do in the classroom that tell us what content, knowledge and skills have been absorbed, what has stuck and what may need reteaching. The idea of the test being 'low stakes' is essential, it's not a pass or fail assessment and avoids creating unnecessary anxiety and stress.

Low stakes testing is a great way of getting pupils to retrieve information and track whether pupils remember key aspects of the subject taught.

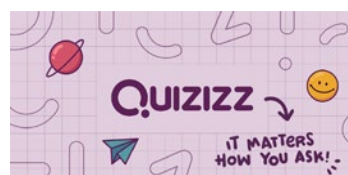
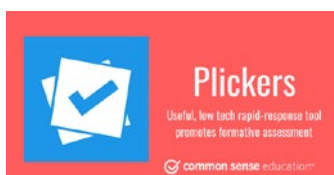


Types of low stakes testing can include:

- Multiple choice quizzes
- Quick quizzes using
- Keyword definitions (both ways)
- Vocabulary tests/spelling tests
- Labelling a diagram from memory
- Recalling key facts/dates/people from memory
- Hinge questions (questions that show if pupils are really ready to move on or not)

Frequently we'll use good old paper and pen for these sorts of tests, or our mini wipeboards and board markers.

Sometimes we'll set these tests digitally and use apps and programmes such as Microsoft Forms, Quizizz.com and Plickers (<https://get.plickers.com>) all of which give teachers pretty instant feedback.



How you can support learning in a similar way at home?

A steady diet of ten-minute quizzes throughout the week can have a significant effect on learning so if you can encourage your child to recall key facts of their lessons by retelling them to you, you'll be helping to embed their learning.

It's even better if you can ask your child to recall information from previous lessons - last month, last week, last lesson, etc. It has a really positive impact on their retention of learning.

To help you know what to ask your pupil about, you can visit our website to see an overview of the curriculum and what is being taught each term:

www.priory.lancs.sch.uk/curriculum

