TEACHING AND LEARNING GUIDANCE FOR PARENTS

Penwortham Priory ACADEMY

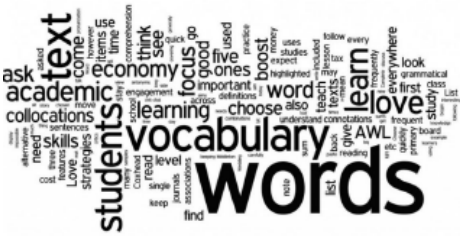
Welcome to our monthly Learning Newsletter. These newsletters look to help you to implement tried and tested learning strategies at home, in order to benefit your child and further enhance their educational experiences in the long term.

Learning Newsletter
November 2018

Issue Focus: Expanding Vocabulary

What can I do to expand my child's vocabulary?

First it might be useful to calculate how big their vocabulary is. There's a simple and fun guide to this in the link: http://www.bbc.co.uk/guides/zs8xj6f#z8nrycw



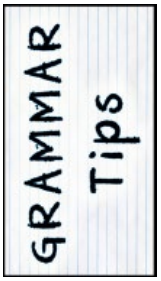
You can work on expanding it with the ideas below:

Encourage reading - Read anything, from fiction to fact, magazines to poetry. Any kind of reading will help, the more varied the better.

Word-a-day calendar - Get a calendar that will help you learn a new word each day. Place it somewhere you will see it regularly during the day, like your desk or fridge.

Crosswords - Crosswords are a fun and challenging way to use the knowledge you already have, and are likely to introduce you to words you don't yet know.

Write something - They say everyone has a novel in them - but, if that seems too big a challenge, try having your child write a diary, a letter, a poem or even just a postcard.



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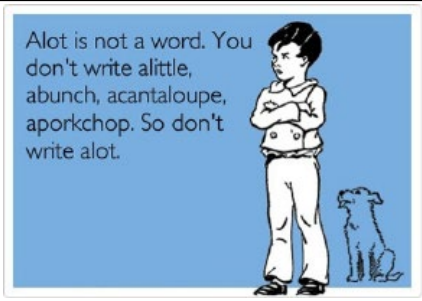

Homework

At Penwortham Priory Academy we believe that learning should not be restricted to the activities and experiences that students have at school and during lessons. Learning is a life-long process both inside and outside of school. We believe that homework provides invaluable opportunities for students to engage with their learning outside the classroom environment.

Homework therefore consolidates and extends learning that has taken place within lessons and gives students the opportunity to work independently and prepare for future lessons, practice examination techniques or further develop appropriate skills and enhance knowledge. Our aim is for this to be structured, meaningful and coherent for all concerned. Homework also gives parents the chance to support their child's progress and encourages dialogue about school experience.

Regular accomplishments like finishing homework builds self-esteem, which aids students' mental and physical health. Responsibility and time management are highly desirable qualities that benefit students long after they graduate.

Parents can support by:

- Engaging with Doddle to see what homework has been set, when the deadlines are, etc.
- Discussing homework tasks with their child in order to help and encourage them, particularly with the basics of reading, writing, spelling and numeracy. (Please ensure that homework is the work of the student and avoid helping with homework to the extent that it is no longer a true reflection of the student's achievement.)
- Further support could be given in the form of testing student's knowledge and recall.
- Checking their child's homework when it has been completed – insist on good standards of presentation in diagrams and written work.
- Notifying the school of any issues or problems that may prevent the completion of homework.
- Encouraging their children to review their learning when there is no specific homework task set.

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email l.cowell@priory.lancs.sch.uk if you wish to discuss anything covered in this newsletter