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**Headteacher: Mrs Victoria Baldwin BSc (Hons) NPQH**

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to introduce myself as the acting Family Lead of LKS2 while Mrs Hayes is on maternity leave. Mrs Hayes has had a beautiful baby girl and named her Imogen. We wish them all the best and hope they enjoy this time with their family.

While I am holding the ship afloat, it is my aim to continue the excellent work already implemented by Mrs Hayes and continue to develop our Year 3 and 4 family so that it remains a place of knowledge and growth for our children.

As you will have noticed, LKS2 have made a choice, when it comes to home learning, to prioritise reading and times table rock stars. Unfortunately, under further investigation, we have realised that not all children are completing this bare minimum every week and therefore we are not seeing progress that we expect.

### **Reading**

Reading is an essential life skill and reading with children at home improves their overall progress and development. It is valuable to listen to your child read aloud (even if they are a free reader), as it gives them a chance to practice reading with understanding and expression. This is why, as parents and carers, you play a vital role in supporting your child in becoming a fluent reader who is confidently able to apply their reading skills across all areas of their lives.

To help us track how much reading your child is doing at home, it is important that you sign their reading scrapbook every time you have listened to them read. Your support with reading at home is essential and only by working together can we ensure your child achieves their greatest potential as a reader.

### **Top tips for reading with your child:**

1. Make time to read - ten minutes every day – we expect children to be reading 5 days out of the week.
2. Find somewhere quiet without any distractions - turn off the phones/tablets/TV.
3. Talk about the book - asking your child questions.
4. Children don't just have to read their school book. They can read anything they wish e.g. a menu, a magazine, shop signs.

## **Times Table Rock Stars**

Times Table Rock Stars is easily accessible from home, on a computer, tablet or phone - <https://play.ttrockstars.com/>

Completing this home learning, ensures that children can reinforce their times tables and division facts which relate back to all areas of Mathematics. It is absolutely essential that your child regularly practices (5 minutes a day). Short burst practice on a daily basis is more effective than spending hours, once a week.

For your child to be fully motivated and for them to get the best out of Reading and Times Table Rock Stars, we need your help. Without your praise, reminders and encouragement, reading and times tables will not feel as important to your child. We hope we can work together on this closely. Class teachers and teaching assistants will be keeping a record of those children completing their home learning and those who aren't.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher or myself.

Our email is also available if you need to contact us [ks2@wouldham.kent.sch.uk](mailto:ks2@wouldham.kent.sch.uk)

Kind Regards

Miss Miskin

LKS2 Family Lead and Nightingale Class Teacher