



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

*Headteacher: Mrs Helen Armstrong
Diocese of Plymouth*

16th October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We would like to reassure some of you about the use of IXL, our online learning system that we are currently using to set homework. It seems that some children have been attempting to score 100 within a task every time they use the platform. The system has an inbuilt penalty for incorrect scores and this means that some children are spending far too long on a task attempting to score 100. If you wish to use the scores as a gauge of success, 80 is a good score. However, the intention is not that the children should be slogging away for hours but that they should spend a set amount of time each week practising key skills.

As well as spellings and daily reading we would recommend the following amount of time on IXL:

Years 1 & 2 - a minimum of 30 minutes each of English and Mathematics

Years 3 & 4 - a minimum of 35 minutes each of English and Mathematics

Years 5 & 6 - a minimum of 45 minutes each of English and Mathematics

It might be easier for your child if they complete smaller chunks on a daily basis rather than attempt all of the tasks on the same day. If having completed the minimum amount of work your child wants to carry on and do more, they may do so. We would like the children to attempt all the tasks set even if they do not complete them as this allows the teachers to gauge where more teaching might be a good idea.

TT Rockstars is still available for all children from Years 2-6 to practice times tables. Each child should have their own username and login. If you are unsure of this please contact the school and we will send you the details again. The app is free to download and the game can also be played online. The best game for helping your child to learn tables is "2garage" as this will only test the tables that the class teacher has set. If they are taking part in a "2Battle of the Bands" or they want to upgrade their avatar, garage also gives the highest number of points per correct score.

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact me through the school office.

Yours faithfully,

Mr S Thomas
Deputy Head