

# The We Are Family Challenge!



27<sup>th</sup> February 2017

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are really impressed with the effort families have made to involve themselves in our 'We are Family' challenges. In the autumn term, children spent more time engaged in an activity with a parent or carer away from a screen. Last half-term, we made bedtime stories our focus, and many pupils took part in 'Book Bingo' to challenge themselves to read more widely.

This half-term, we are hoping you will participate in our next challenge: to support children in completing a weekly talk homework.

## **What is a talk homework?**

A talk homework is one which involves a dialogue between the child and parent or carer about a topic which will support learning. The discussion will prepare your son and daughter for an activity later in the week, and will enable them to make better progress. Talking builds understanding, encourages children to make connections in their learning and clarifies their thinking. We do lots of talking in school already, but a talk homework provides many other benefits:

- Time with your child
- An insight into what they are learning at school
- An opportunity to develop their vocabulary
- It can spark lively discussions in the home
- It is time away from screens, and precious time with you
- It is valuable preparation for a lesson
- It encourages creative thinking because the discussion need not lead to a single right answer, and this gives children confidence to express themselves
- It teaches pupils to take some responsibility for their part in the education process

### How will we organise talk homework?

- Each class will set a talk homework once a week
- It may be set overnight. This is because the topic will be fresh in the children's heads from the day's lesson
- There will be an outline of the homework, either written in the planner, or in a brief note
- It could link to any subject area



Look out for the display in the lower hall of talk homework topics children have enjoyed in different phases of school – they might inspire your own family debates!

Thank you for your support

Dani Rees  
Deputy Headteacher

