

# Our Home Learning Approach

‘Meaningful, manageable and enhances what the children are learning in school.’

The concept of Knowledge Organisers and Retrieval Practice is based on vast amounts of scientific research and studies considering how our memory works and how we best learn. They also support in the fact that our curriculum is a knowledge-rich curriculum which requires our children to gain a wide range of knowledge. When we talk about knowledge we don’t mean knowledge for the purpose of recalling lots of facts but to ensure that learners can retrieve these facts and then use these to apply and manipulate in many ways.

In Years Three and Four, the children will bring home a knowledge Organiser Pack. Within this pack is a suggested timetable, explanations of cognitive strategies and Knowledge Organisers for their current focus subjects. Alongside their Knowledge Organisers the children will need a ‘Study Guide’ this is simply a notebook or exercise book where children can complete their home learning. These will be coming home with your child.

## Knowledge Organisers

This is the ‘go to’ document that contains key knowledge that children need to learn. This knowledge will be laid out in easily digestible chunks. At times children may be asked to reconsolidate a piece of knowledge or it may be that they need to learn a new piece of knowledge prior to it being taught in school. Any new learning will be covered again in class however if children are able to recall the knowledge prior to the lesson, then within the lesson they can take this further through application. Please note the Knowledge Organiser outlines the key information for children to learn and not an opportunity to practice or apply.

## Cognitive Strategies

Cognitive Strategies refers to methods used to help learners understand the way they learn. There are many cognitive strategies including Mind Maps, Peg Words, Mnemonics just to name a few. Within class all children will be introduced to a range of strategies and refer to these weekly in their Learning to Learn Sessions. There is no one right strategy and children will explore all of these while they begin to further understand themselves as learners and how they learn best.



## Retrieval Practice

Retrieval practice is a powerful strategy that boosts learning by pulling information out of the learners Long Term Memory. This ensures that the key knowledge that is learnt sticks and can be retrieved and used at different times. During the school week children will be asked to recall the key knowledge through quizzes. This is a low stake learning opportunity that is flexible and quick, with a huge impact on long-term achievement.

### Learning to Learn Sessions

All children will partake in a weekly Learning to Learn Session. During this session the children will complete a retrieval quiz, focus on a cognitive strategy and apply this to an area of their Knowledge Organiser. During these sessions the adults within the class will be looking through each individual's study guide at their weekly home learning as well as discussing how they did on their retrieval quiz. As stated this is a low stakes quiz and there is no pressure with regards to how many the children get right. For those lower scores the discussion is focused around the cognitive strategies the children are using to learn the knowledge and recommendations and support in a different strategy which may work better for that individual. When the adult looks through the home learning they will be looking to see that the home learning has been completed and will provide individuals with verbal feedback.



At the front of the Knowledge Organiser pack we have added an example timetable. This is just a guide as we want to ensure our approach is flexible and can be adapted to fit in with all families' home lives as we are aware that many of our learners are busy after school with activities. These activities are so important and home learning should not get in the way of these. At First School home learning is not compulsory and at no point will children be penalised for not completing their homework. However, we do encourage children within school and are passionate about children engaging in this as we have seen the positive impact this type of home learning can have on our learners.