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Executive Headteacher: Mrs Michelle Thomas
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Dear Parents and Carers

Re: Home Learning Maker Mats

As you will have read from my letter earlier this week, we are continuing our mission to encourage creativity and wonder in our children here at Grazebrook. We strongly believe that by sparking curiosity, we will encourage the children to be innovative. By asking the children to create or make things, they constantly thinking about how it can be done differently next time.

You will remember our 'Curiosity Challenge' in July, where we asked the children the BIG QUESTION 'What Will Life Be Like in One Thousand Years?' The children thoroughly enjoyed the week of designing and creating and I hope that you enjoyed supporting them with this project. In order to continue to encourage the children to be inquisitive and to question the world around them, we will be starting some new initiatives here at the school.

Firstly the staff are busy creating 'Maker Spaces' in the classrooms. These are designated spaces with tasks designed to encourage our children to use their imagination and creative skills to complete challenges and problems. The tasks will change weekly and will be directed at the differing interests of the pupils in the class. Sometimes the children will be interested, other times they may not. I am fairly certain that the children will tell you all about this in the coming weeks.



Alongside our 'Maker Spaces in the classroom, we have redesigned our Home Learning Passports to encourage creativity and challenge. Our Home Learning will now come home to you on a 'Maker Mat' with eight or nine activities designed to challenge even the most creative. The Maker Mats will be coming home this week, along with this letter. They can also be accessed on the school's website for your ease. The children should choose up to four of the activities to complete over the half-term.

Towards the second half of the term, we will be introducing 'Genius Time' in upper KS2. Genius Time is a student-driven opportunity for pupils to explore their own interests. The children will be given time to identify a challenge, problem or question they would like to explore. The children will plan, manage and reflect upon their learning, with a focus on the process of inquiry. This process allows students the freedom to think independently, take risks, and learn from their attempts. We will send more information about this in the coming weeks.

In the meantime, I can't wait to see what exciting things the children will create from their Home Learning Maker Mats this term.

Kind regards,

Jess Hutchison
Headteacher

