

IN-TOUCH @ FRONTIER

www.frontierpri.moe.edu.sg

March 2013



Tips for Happier Homework

Parents who are interested to find out more about how to guide your child in his/her homework may want to refer to books such as “**Calmer, Easier, Happier Homework**” by Noël Janis-Norton. She suggests that all school children need the discipline of almost-daily work at home or they will fall behind.

Some of her recommendations include:

- The basic rules for homework must first be laid down as law. Then, as resistance fades, they gradually become accepted, appreciated, and become habits.
- Identify sacred homework time every day (except a weekend day). Start the habit of having your child sit down and do homework every day. Establish a daily homework schedule because routines reduce resistance.
- Do not skip homework for two or more days in a row as this can make re-establishing the homework routine more difficult. One day off a week is the optimum, so your child can have a day when no thought of work need enter his/her mind. This is especially important for the pupil who is not feeling successful.
- Wherever possible, plan for homework to be done at the same time every day. That way it is predictable and therefore easier for everyone to remember and accept. If this is not possible, you can still establish routines so homework is done at the same time on certain days, even if other days have to be at other times.
- Make a homework schedule chart and place it in a prominent place. Refer to it frequently. This will reduce confusion and resistance.
- If the school has not set any homework, have your child get a headstart on homework due in a few days, have them revise a topic that is causing them trouble or get them to practise a skill you think they need to improve on.

ICT @ Frontier

e-Assignment for P2

e-Assignments will be given to all P2 pupils on a weekly basis. This is part of the school's efforts to inculcate in Frontierers the skills, fluency and self-discipline to carry out self-directed learning using online resources such as the school's Learning Management System (LMS).

The log-in details is as follows:

URL: http://lms.asknlearn.com/frontier_ps/

Username: **Your Child's BC No.**

Password: **Your Child's BC No.**

For any technical assistance, please call the LMS helpline at **6777 9661** or email lmssupport@wizlearn.com.

Baseline ICT skills

The school has mapped out the baseline ICT skills that we would like to see Frontierers master progressively over 6 years so that they are well-equipped with the ability to use technology competently. We have planned for P1 pupils to go through the 'Touch-Typing Module' and P2 pupils to go through the 'Text-Typing Module'.

Both the modules will be carried out in Term 2 during selected Mother Tongue and English lessons. These modules will be carried out by our school's ICT trainer and teachers. Pupils will receive a certificate of participation upon completion of the module. More details will be released at a later date.

Cyber wellness

Cyber wellness refers to the positive well-being of internet users. The rapid advancements of technology have brought about a dramatic change in the way we learn, work, live and play. Thus, it has become critical for all pupils to develop an understanding of how to safely navigate the internet, engage with others safely in online discourse and know how to protect themselves from potentially - harmful behaviours.

As such, the school will be organizing various termly cyber wellness activities for the pupils, which will be integrated into the curriculum for ir Health EducationE or Form Teacher Guidance Period. This year, we are focusing on the theme - 'Netiquette'. Netiquette refers to the rule of Internet courtesy. Examples of positive netiquette include being responsible for the information they type online as well as respecting others' privacy. Examples of negative behaviour while communicating online can include using crude language, insulting others and cyber bullying. In addition to that, the school will also be organizing a Cyber Wellness Week in Week 4 of Term 2. More details will be released at a later date.

To help encourage and promote safe and responsible use of the Internet, we hope parents could also help to reiterate to your children the importance of cyber wellness at home to raise their awareness in evaluating what they read, see and hear in the media. Kindly log on to www.MediaLiteracyCouncil.sg. for more information on cyber wellness.

Guided Reading Programme

We believe that reading forms the building blocks for a strong proficiency in English.

To inculcate the love of reading and improve literacy skills in our pupils, the school will be carrying out the Guided Reading Programme during curriculum time

The school has purchased a series of graded readers which teachers will read with the pupils. Based on each story, pupils will be engaged in extension activities that will aid to enhance their English language competency.

In order to inculcate the values of responsibility and respect in our pupils, we would like to seek your assistance to remind your child to take good care of the books, especially as these books will also be shared and enjoyed by other pupils in the school. We will need to ask pupils who lose or damage these books to pay for them.

Primary 1 pupils will receive their first book in Term 1 Week 9 and they will return the books to their English teacher in Term 1 Week 10. Pupils will receive a new storybook every fortnight thereafter.

The Guided Reading Programme for Primary 2 pupils will start at a later date.

Thank you for helping to ensure that the books are returned in good condition.

We hope that your child will enjoy reading the books and attain a higher level of proficiency in English through this programme.



Primary 1 and 2 Subscription to *+venture in Maths!*

The Mathematics department will be asking the pupils to subscribe to a Mathematics publication, *+venture in Maths!*.

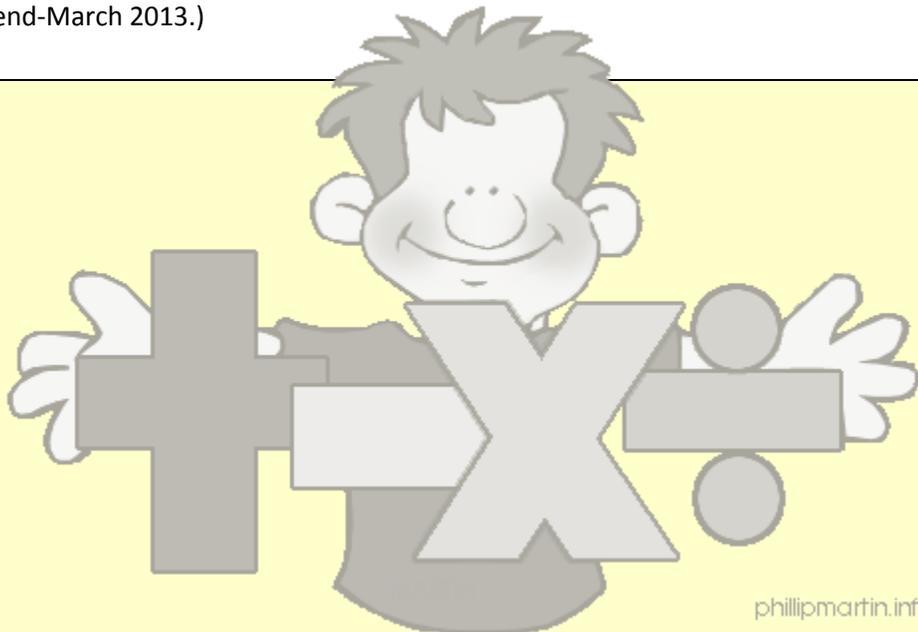
+venture in Maths! is a 16-page full colour publication that aims to inject fun and meaning in the learning of mathematics. It features exciting Maths stories, teaches concepts in an interesting way and has many good practices and challenging questions. There are 16 issues and every issue includes puzzles or a Maths game as well as a competition to excite your child. There is also a Parent's page with tips on how to engage your child in learning Maths outside school and additional practices that can be downloaded online. In addition, there are 2 special holiday issues to make mathematics real and exciting for your child!

+venture in Maths! is written by Dr Rosalind Phang and Dr Tang Wee Kee, both are mathematicians and educators who believe that mathematics can be learned in a fun and rigorous way. They have subscribers from more than 90% of all primary schools in Singapore. This publication has received very good feedback from both pupils and parents. You can also read more about *+venture in Maths!* at www.add-venture.com.sg.

We believe you and your child will benefit from this publication. Subscription to the newsletter is **compulsory**. Our Mathematics teachers will be referring to certain activities in the magazine to enhance math concepts and skills.

Cost of the subscription for the magazine at **\$30** per year (special school rate) will be payable to the school through a one-time cash collection to be done in Term 2. More details about the cash collection will be made known at a later date.

(Note: Add-venture Learning will refund parents who have signed up for this magazine in Nov 2012 the full amount by end-March 2013.)



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Announcements

Travel Declaration for March Holidays

The March Holidays are round the corner. For families that have made travel plans, kindly complete the travel declaration form via our LMS Portal by 13 March 2013. For pupils who are unable to access the online LMS portal, they can request for the forms from their class Form Teachers. The same deadline applies.

Instructions for log-in:

1. Log in to the LMS using your child's log-in details.

URL: http://lms.asknlearn.com/frontier_ps/

Username: **Your Child's BC No.**

Password: **Your Child's BC No.**

2. Go to "My Tasks" and click on "March Holidays Travel Declaration".
3. Select "Yes" if you are travelling. Proceed to fill up the rest of the form (especially with those boxes marked with asterisks*). Click on "Save" once you have completed the form.
4. Select "No" if you are not travelling. Proceed to click on "Save".

For any technical assistance, please call the LMS helpline at **6777 9661** or email lmssupport@wizlearn.com.

Have you read our latest blog entry? If not, you may go to <http://frontierpri.blogspot.sg/>

Do you have any feedback or ideas for In-Touch?
Do let us know on our website at 'Our Stakeholders' → 'In-Touch@Frontier'. You can view our past issues at the same address.

----- Please cut along this line -----

Acknowledgement of *In-Touch@Frontier* March 2013

I, parent of _____ of Primary _____,
acknowledge receipt and have noted the contents in this March issue of *In-Touch@Frontier*.

Name of Parent: _____

Signature and Date _____