**What is a learning log?**

In the lower Juniors, twice each half term the children will be given a title with a series of questions that they should aim to answer. This allows the children to become familiar with the idea and supports their thinking. The activity will usually be relevant to their current class topic or a particular theme. In the upper Juniors the task is generally more open and allows the children more scope to be inventive with their content.

**Learning logs are:-**

* A personal reflective journal for the child to record their knowledge and understanding in whichever way they feel is most helpful. Children can use pictures, writing, diagrams, labels, bullet points, mind maps or whatever style they wish to choose to present their work.
* An opportunity for children to extend and consolidate their learning in the classroom.
* Encouraging children to be creative and independent.
* Encouraging children to be actively engaged in their own learning and take a pride in their work.
* Encouraging a partnership between home and school.
* Personalised, there is no right or wrong way to approach a task.
* ‘Inclusive’ and cater for all abilities and learning styles.
* Child-directed, rather than teacher-directed and so give children ‘ownership’.
* Allowing our children to be as creative and imaginative as they like.
* A useful revision tool.
* An assessment tool for teachers.

Children who do not have access to a range of resources at home (e.g. internet, printer, camera, felt pens) will be given an opportunity to carry out their work during a lunchtime club.

**Completing a Learning Log:-**

Learning Logs are given to every child on a particular day in the week (a Monday for Kirby and Arrowsmith) and your child will have two weeks to complete their log. There will be a week after completion to allow anyone who has had difficulties to complete their log. The children will then peer mark their work using given criteria for marking. They will be aiming to increase their score and the quality of their work over the year.

The only stipulation is that the children must fit all the information they would like to present on no more than one double page of the journal. They can of course creatively extend the page by attaching flaps and folded sections. See examples below:-

The logs focus in developing children’s creativity, independence and a love for learning. Each log is a unique record of the child’s thinking and learning. A good learning log should also be presented well and teach the reader something.

Learning Logs are used by many Primary schools and we believe they will help the children to become more independent in their learning, and be a useful skill for Secondary school.

We hope to encourage the children to have fun producing bright and colourful logs and continue their learning at home with your support. Many children enjoy creating their learning logs and are often really proud of the finished products. We therefore try to share good examples in class whenever possible. As the children move through the Juniors the expectations will change. When producing their Learning Log, Year 3 will require much more support and guidance. As they mature, children will be expected to work more independently until, eventually; they will produce a Learning Log almost completely by themselves. Because of all of the hard work that goes into creating a learning log, children are expected to spend more time on it than weekly homework. For pupils in Year 5 and Year 6 a good learning log should take approximately 2 hours to research and present and in Years 3 and 4 about an hour and a half.

**Examples of Learning Logs:-**

