

HOMework

Homework is a valuable element of the teaching and learning process which can raise standards, improve your child's attitude to learning, extend and enrich class work and improve your child's organisational and study skills.

Reading

All children have a reading book, at a level they should be able to read with a little support. Children should be reading at least 3 times a week for at least 15 minutes. Children need to understand what they are reading, so asking questions during and after is very helpful in the development of their comprehension skills. We will send out examples of the type of questions to ask (increasing in difficulty) at the beginning of a new school year. Please record all reading in their contact book.

Spellings/English homework

All children receive weekly spellings. These are best practiced daily. Most children use the 'Look/Cover/Write/Check' method on the sheets provided by school, but they can be practiced verbally. Children also receive a piece of English homework designed to develop grammar, punctuation and sentence building skills. Your child may need support with the initial instructions and a little prompt to get started, but if they really don't understand, PLEASE see the class teacher BEFORE the day it is due to be returned!

Maths - 'The Story of'/Times tables

Children are given number bonds (or times tables) to learn. We recommend that your child spends a few minutes each day practising them. They can do this independently using the flashcards in their homework wallet. These are key facts children need to be able to recall instantly so they can calculate quickly and efficiently. They will also help enormously when working with more challenging numbers and calculations.

English & Maths Targets

At the start of each school year, your child will bring home a copy of the non-negotiables for their year group (end of year targets). We will spend time in class working towards the targets and will ask the children to work on some targets at home too. If your child finishes their homework quickly, we suggest they work through some of their targets. If more explanation about specific targets is required, please call in and see us.

Creative Curriculum

Sometimes the children receive a piece of homework related to other areas of the curriculum (usually over the holiday period or prior to a new topic). This is usually a more open-ended piece and one where they (and often parents too!) can let their creativity flow!

Time spent on homework

Class teachers ensure that demands of homework are manageable and relevant for your child - **every child has an individual work pace so the time taken to learn or complete work will vary.** If you feel the homework is taking too long for your child to complete, please write a note on it or speak directly to the class teacher.

Rewards and Sanctions!

Homework is an important part of our school life. It forms part of the half-termly tracker (red/amber/green chart) and works towards children receiving their weekly Golden time. Failure to complete or return homework by the set day will result in a strike. 3 strikes means the child will not receive their Golden time and may spend some of that time completing homework.

The role of your child and you:

It is your child's responsibility to bring home and then return homework and to tell you that they have homework. They do, however, sometimes forget (on purpose!) so it is always worth checking their bag on a daily basis. Make it clear to your child that you value homework and if possible work with, or be available to support your child. Please discuss and check the accuracy of their completed work and encourage and praise whenever possible....

GENERAL HOMEWORK TIPS FOR PARENTS

- **Make sure your child has a quiet, well-lit place to do homework.**
Avoid having your child do homework with the television on or in places with other distractions, such as people coming and going.
- **Make sure the materials your child needs, such as paper, pencils and a dictionary, are available and appropriate.**
All homework should be completed in pencil unless your child has a pen licence. Ask your child if special materials will be needed for some projects and get them in advance.
- **Help your child with time management.**
Establish a set time each day for doing homework. Don't let your child leave homework until just before bedtime. Think about using a weekend morning or afternoon for working on big projects.
- **Be positive about homework.**
Tell your child how important school is. The attitude you express about homework will be the attitude your child acquires.
- **When your child does homework, you do homework.**
Show your child that the skills they are learning are related to things you do as an adult. If your child is reading, you read too.
- **When your child asks for help, provide guidance, not answers.**
Giving answers means your child will not learn the material. Too much help teaches your child that when the going gets rough, someone will do the work for him or her.
- **When the teacher asks that you play a role in homework, please help.**
Cooperate with the teacher. It shows your child that the school and home are a team. Follow the directions given by the teacher.
- **Stay informed.**
Talk with your child's teacher. Make sure you know the purpose of homework and what your child's class rules are.
- **Help your child figure out what is hard homework and what is easy homework.**
Have your child do the hard work first. This will mean she/he will be most alert when facing the biggest challenges. Easy material will seem to go fast when fatigue begins to set in.
- **Watch your child for signs of failure and frustration.**
Let your child take a short break if she/he is having trouble keeping her/his mind on an assignment.
- **Reward progress in homework.**
If your child has been successful in homework completion and is working hard, celebrate that success with a special event (e.g., pizza, a walk, a trip to the park) to reinforce the positive effort.

I hope this helps you in being able to support your child with their homework. If in doubt, please ask.

Emma Pepper
Headteacher.