



# Homework Policy



**Respect, Resilience, Kindness**

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## Homework Policy Principles

The Education Endowment Fund reports that research into homework ([read here](#)) has mainly been carried out in relation to secondary schools. There is evidence to suggest schools that give homework perform better, but it is not clear that this is due to the homework itself. In addition, gains in relation to primary aged children are seen to be small. One benefit of homework is that it can help parents support their children in building positive attitudes towards their education, but it is our belief that this should be balanced with the needs of children to develop other interests and have time to rest. Evidence suggests that short focused tasks that link directly to current learning - and on-going retrieval of prior learning linked to gains in long-term memory - are likely to be more effective than regular daily homework that lacks a specific purpose. Taking this into account, homework will follow the activities listed below.

### Aims

Throughout implementation of this policy, we aim to;

- ☆ Develop an effective partnership between school and parents for each child's education, as children achieve more when teachers and parents work together,
- ☆ Consolidate/reinforce skills, knowledge and understanding, particularly in Literacy and Numeracy,
- ☆ Utilise resources for learning available at home,
- ☆ Extend school learning
- ☆ Develop confidence, independence and the self-discipline needed for personal study in preparation for secondary school and beyond,
- ☆ Provide opportunities for parents and children to work together to enjoy learning experiences

### Homework Expectations

Whilst there is no minimum time set by the government for homework in primary schools, we believe the suggested times and activities below would support your child achieving their full potential based on the aims mentioned in this policy:

<b>Year group</b>	<b>Approximate recommended time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Impact</b>
Nursery Reception	5 minutes daily	Sharing of a book with an adult Log reading Boom Reader app	Inspire a love of reading and introduce children to pictures and words
	5 minutes daily	Practical activities linked to maths e.g. watching Numberblocks, counting, looking for patterns, early phonics reinforcement activities suggested by the teacher	Develop an awareness of number and sounds in words
	5 minutes daily	Practical early phonics reinforcement activities suggested by the teacher	Supports early reading development
	5 minutes daily	Daily reading practice with book sent home from school Share a book of interest	Nurture the love of reading and practice the sounds taught at

Year group	Approximate recommended time	Activity	Impact
		Log reading on the Boom Reader app	school in a book matched to phonetic knowledge
	5 minutes daily	Practical counting activities, recognising and writing numbers to 10	Consolidating knowledge of numbers to 10
	5 minutes daily	Writing own name Writing letters and sounds that have been learnt during phonics	Reinforcement of writing skills taught at school
Year 1 and Year 2	5 minutes daily	Daily reading practice with book sent home from school Share a book of interest Log reading on the Boom Reader app	Nurture the love of reading and practice the sounds taught at school in a book matched to phonetic knowledge
	5 minutes daily	Addition and subtraction skills using Numbots app Practice number bonds Counting to 100 Read and write words and numerals	Develop automaticity and rapid recall of key numbers facts
	30 minutes per week	Homework project menu – these are set half termly and link to the learning journey in the class. Children must complete <u>at least one</u> item from the menu	Demonstrate knowledge from the curriculum through a project created at home Shared learning and expertise with parents/ adults at home Apply reading, writing and creative skills
	5 minutes daily	Spelling practice - writing the spellings accurately, neatly and with increased confidence	Accurate spelling when writing
Year 3 and Year 4	10 minutes daily	Daily reading practice with book sent home from school Share a book of interest Log reading on the Boom Reader app Ask questions about the text <i>e.g. predict what you think will happen next, who is your favourite character and why, why do you think the page is set out like this?</i>	Nurture the love of reading Develop fluency, pace and expression whilst reading aloud Apply phonics knowledge to reading unfamiliar words
	5 minutes daily	Practice multiplication facts using TTRockstars app Recite times tables Answer quick fire questions Complete written questions when timed	Develop automaticity and rapid recall of key numbers facts
	30 minutes per week	Homework project menu – these are set half termly and link to the learning journey in the class. Children must complete <u>at least one</u> item from the menu	Demonstrate knowledge from the curriculum through a project created at home Shared learning and expertise with parents/ adults at home Apply reading, writing and creative skills

Year group	Approximate recommended time	Activity	Impact
	10 minutes daily	Spellings – Look, cover, write check sheet	Know more spelling Learn spelling rules Learn how to spell exception words
Year 5 and Year 6	10 minutes daily	Daily reading practice with book sent home from school Share a book of interest Log reading on the Boom Reader app Reading will be increasingly independent Log words that are unfamiliar or unknown	Nurture the love of reading Develop fluency, pace and expression whilst reading aloud Read for sustained periods with independence
	10 minutes daily	Practice multiplication facts using TTRockstars app Revision of key facts and knowledge	Develop automaticity and rapid recall of key numbers facts
	30 minutes per week	Homework project menu – these are set half termly and link to the learning journey in the class. Children must complete <u>at least one</u> item from the menu	Demonstrate knowledge from the curriculum through a project created at home Shared learning and expertise with parents/ adults at home Apply reading, writing and creative skills
	10 minutes daily	Spellings – Look, cover, write check sheet	Know more spelling Learn spelling rules Learn how to spell exception words

### *Home Reading*

Helping children to read and developing 'reading for pleasure' is the single most important thing that parents can do to help with their children's education. If possible, reading should be done every day. It is an excellent way to bring 'screen time' to a close and help settle children into a healthy, bedtime routine. Reading can also be linked to current school topics to support interest and understanding.

### *Reading Scheme Books*

Each week, the children in EYFS and KS1 will receive a reading book which has been chosen by the class teacher as a book which matches the child's phonics skills. This book should be read several times over the week to increase speed, accuracy and fluency. These books will often be Read Write Inc books that the children have been reading in school.

In KS2, children read books according to their book band. Their reading level has been assessed by the class teacher. As children get older and more confident with their reading, these books will be larger and take longer to read. All reading should be logged by the parent or child on the Boom Reader app. This is monitored by the class teacher.

### *Library Books or book of interest*

In addition to reading scheme books, children may bring home a class library book. This should be a book that interests them and is suited to their general level of reading. As these

books may be more challenging, parents can share the reading or read to their children. A key thing here is that children understand new words and knowledge, so parents should discuss the content and meaning.

### *Maths*

Fluency in maths skills (e.g. number bonds, times tables, counting, telling the time) is another aspect that can have a big impact on children's learning. Scientific research has proven that the human brain has limited 'thinking space'; so storing basic facts in the long-term memory helps when working on difficult problems. We advise that children practise these basic skills until they know them 'by heart'. School will provide a list of topics each half term. Educational games can support learning in an engaging and fun way.

### *Spelling*

School uses the Read Write Inc spelling scheme which splits spellings into groups. These spellings will link to a weekly focus on a spelling rule or pattern. We encourage the children to practice these spellings throughout the week in their best handwriting to increase the possibility of committing the word/ rule to long term memory.

### *Homework Menus*

Each half term, a menu of suggested activities and projects will be suggested for children to do at home linked to the foundation subjects. The aim of these is to develop deeper interest and engagement in the curriculum topics that the children are studying. These projects will not be marked, but they will be displayed in school in a celebration event at the end of each half term.

### *Parental Support*

Below is a list of ways that parents can show their child that they value their homework and the time and effort spent completing it.

Teachers will also provide clear and regular reminders of their expectation when it comes to homework. Suggested ways for parents to support their child include:

- providing a suitable place in which your child can do their homework, preferably with an adult to discuss, encourage and support
- making it clear to your child that you value homework and support the school in explaining how it can help learning
- encouraging your child and praising them when they have completed work set
- ensuring work is complete and returned to school on time
- checking your child spends a suitable amount of time on homework

Additionally, you can support your child's development by:

- visits to libraries, museums etc.
- cooking with them
- taking your child swimming
- playing games, e.g. board games, cards, ball games
- watching informative TV programmes together
- providing opportunities for craft activities, e.g. cutting, sticking, sewing, painting etc. gardening and growing plants

- using the internet to research something with your child (following guidelines for safe internet use)
- talking to your child about schoolwork, their day, what they have been learning about and how they have been learning

### School Support

School will ensure that homework is fun, purposeful and linked to learning so that children can see the relevance and importance of continuing their studies at home.

For children with additional needs, scaffolds and support prompts are provided by the class teacher e.g. word mats, visual prompts.

A weekly homework club is available for all children to attend after school. During the club, the children have 1 hour to complete their home tasks and homework project. This can be collaboratively with another child in the group or with the support of a teacher. Resources and equipment are provided at the club.

### Class Dojo

Class Dojo is the online platform that school uses to communicate with parents, share learning from the classroom and store digital work produced by the children. Homework tasks may be completed on a digital device and uploaded to Class Dojo.

### Marking and Feedback

Children receive verbal feedback from the class teacher to acknowledge their efforts during homework. What children have learnt at home will often contribute into class discussions and lessons linked to the homework set. The half termly projects will be shared with their peers and effort celebrated and awarded. Work will not be marked or receive written feedback as its impact will be seen through pupils' on-going learning in class.

Attitudes and completion of homework will be discussed during parent/ teacher consultation meetings. If there are concerns about a child's commitment to homework, a message will be sent home via Class Dojo then is necessary, a meeting arranged. All children unable to complete homework will be encouraged to join the homework club.