



Homework Guidance for Parents

Introduction

At The Royal Primary School, we believe that homework should be fun and engaging and can take many different forms. Wider learning can contribute to a pupil's development and attainment and is an important part of developing a well-rounded child.

Aims:

Through homework, we aim to:

- Give pupils the opportunity to extend their learning in areas of personal interest
- To encourage children to develop the confidence, independence, self-discipline and motivation needed to study on their own and prepare them for the next phase of education
- To set homework that is relevant and meaningful for the child linked to work done at school
- Make expectations about homework clear
- Provide opportunities for parents and children to work together, thereby, fostering an effective partnership between home and school

Why do we value homework?

Children benefit greatly from the mutual support of parents and teachers in encouraging them to learn both at home and at school. By valuing home-school learning, pupils are afforded the chance to practice skills, consolidate understanding of work covered in the classroom and to widen their own interests. Encouraging good study habits provides an opportunity for pupils to develop self-discipline and the ability to take responsibility for their own learning.

Principles

- The amount and difficulty of homework is tailored according to the child's age and ability.
- Sufficient time is allowed for the completion of homework to allow for a healthy home/school work balance.
- As the children progress through the school so the amount of homework increases.
- High expectations for neat presentation are in place to ensure that children maintain a similar high standard of work at home as in school.
- Homework should be linked to previous learning and key skills and must be meaningful and relevant.

Homework Activities

Our Creative Curriculum homework is designed to build upon the concepts and skills that pupils have been learning across a range of subjects.

In addition to daily reading and weekly spellings, we therefore set half-termly homework for each year group in order to provide a range of engaging activities for the children to choose from to motivate and inspire them into becoming independent learners.

- We offer a choice of homework tasks that can be completed in any order.
- One task is to be completed in the children's homework books each week.
- By the end of each term, the children will have completed a minimum of 5 homework tasks.
- Children receive a new set of activities at the beginning of each half-term.
- Staff will provide verbal feedback and ensure opportunities for their work to be shared with their peers however they will not be formally marked. On occasions work may be given rewards such as stickers/house points/merits.

Alongside the Creative Curriculum homework, pupils may be asked to complete a specific Literacy or Maths task to consolidate and reinforce basic skills and understanding in these 'core' subjects.

A breakdown of how homework is structured in each year is provided below. This has been designed to encourage a gradual progression of skills and expectation so that by the time children reach Year 6 they have established a clear routine in preparation for secondary school.

Year Group	Activities
Reception	Reading/sharing books with parents/carers at least 4 times weekly and recording in the Home-School Diary. Books changed twice weekly. Handwriting – focus letter each week. Children may be given additional 'top-up' practice of phonic sounds and/or common exception words.
Year 1	Reading/sharing books with parents/carers at least 4 times weekly and recording in the Home-School Diary. Books changed twice weekly. Spellings – 5-10 words to practise at home each week. Phonics – Sound of the Week and Alien Word activity will come home once per week.
Year 2	Reading - with parents/carers at least 4 times weekly and recorded in the Home-School Diary. Maths - Learning of multiplication facts 2, 5, 10 using Times Table Rock Stars. Cornerstones - 6 tasks per half term linked to topic, with a wider curriculum focus. Spellings - A spelling list will be provided each week to be practised. Individualised - Children may be given a specific literacy and/or numeracy activities to support their learning in class or small group sessions.
Year 3	Reading - at least 3 times a week Maths - Learning times tables using Times Tables Rockstars continuing with 2, 5 and 10 and learning of multiplication facts 3, 4, 6, (7, 8, 9, 11 when ready) Cornerstones - 6 tasks per half term linked to topic, with a wider curriculum focus. Spellings - A spelling list will be provided each week to be practised. Individualised - Children may be given a specific literacy and/or numeracy activities to support their learning in class or small group sessions.
Year 4	Reading - at least 3 times a week Maths - Daily, learning times tables using Times Tables Rockstars (continuing with 2, 5 and 10 and learning of multiplication facts 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11 when ready) Cornerstones - 6 tasks per half term linked to topic, with a wider curriculum focus. Individualised - Children may be given a specific literacy and/or numeracy activity to support their learning in class or small group sessions.
Year 5	Reading at least 3 times a week Maths - Task set every other week linked to learning in class or consolidating previous skill. 20-30 minutes to complete. English - Task set every other week linked to learning in class or consolidating previous skill. 20-30 minutes to complete. Spelling - Weekly task linked to that week's spellings. Cornerstones - 6 tasks per half term linked to topic, with a wider curriculum focus.

	Individualised - Children may be given a specific literacy and/or numeracy activity to support their learning in class or small group sessions.
Year 6	<p>Reading - at least 3 times a week</p> <p>English and Maths - SATs style questions set out as recap or pre-teach. 15 minutes each.</p> <p>Spelling - Weekly task linked to that week's spellings.</p> <p>Cornerstones - 6 tasks per half term linked to topic, with a wider curriculum focus.</p> <p>Individualised - Children may be given a specific literacy and/or numeracy activity to support their learning in class or small group sessions.</p>

How you can help your child with their homework

The school will also provide clear and regular reminders of their expectation when it comes to homework. As a school we hope that you will find this guidance helpful in supporting your child fully with their homework.

You can show you value your child's homework by:

- providing a suitable place in which your child can do their homework .
- 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 through:

- 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.

Remember: Homework is about reinforcing, practicing and confidence building...

Enthusiasing your child about undertaking homework and modelling the high value of homework to them is of key importance. Make it fun!