

St James the Great RC (VA) Primary and Nursery School



Homework Policy

HOMEWORK POLICY

Philosophy

In general, a little homework at the primary stage of education is seen as contributing to good practice and aids effective learning. Homework further involves parents in their child's education and reinforces the teacher/parent partnership.

We value the role of parents and seek to involve them at home in the tasks being undertaken by their children at school. These tasks may vary in frequency and content. The school aims for homework are:

- To extend and develop skills already learnt.
- To prepare for a lesson to be developed in class.
- To encourage pupils to work towards independence.
- To 'catch up' on class work.
- To accelerate the progress of pupils.

A calm environment should be provided in which the child can work. We would wish parents to support and encourage their child in completing work at home. It is important that success is rewarded and that the work done at home should not become a trial or trauma. Should this happen, parents are asked to contact the child's class teacher.

Parents will be kept informed as to topic work being undertaken by pupils. In the absence of a specific task at any time, this area can be further researched or related work undertaken at home, by accessing local libraries, etc.

INFANTS {Years R, 1 and 2-Key Stage 1}

We ask you to read and share with your child the book they bring home on a daily basis. A book card accompanies the reading book inside their book bag and you are requested to use this card to make comments about your child's reading. Words from the child's reading book may be sent home to be learnt, when the teacher feels this is appropriate.

Sharing free time together by talking, listening, playing board games, developing child's hobbies and interests and playing together are all important activities. It is important to remember that children learn through a range of both informal and formal activities. Aspects of play can be educational. It will be counter-productive if tasks are forced or become confrontational.

Reception

1. Parents are asked to reinforce phonic sounds being taught. These are displayed each week on the classroom window.
2. Pupils will begin sight reading words in school. When it is felt to be appropriate, pupils will bring home words to practise reading each day. These will be monitored weekly.
3. Information about topics will be displayed on the classroom windows.
 - Reading books will be brought home on a daily basis with the Reading Card detailed above.
 - As children progress then support at home is requested in respect of development of correct letter and number formation in line with the school script.
 - Practical use of money e.g. when shopping.
 - Activities around the home involving counting.

Activities that will further help your child include cutting, colouring, drawing around templates, threading and tracing. It is important to note that children progress at varying rates and this should be taken account of when undertaking tasks detailed above.

Year 1

- Class reading book will be brought home from a graded reading box four days a week with a class library book being selected on the fifth day. Your child will have a reading record booklet to enable you to make comments in regard to your child's reading and enjoyment of their book. You are asked to encourage your child during the year to start writing their own comments.
- Your child will also have a library book selected from the school library which they may change on a weekly basis as necessary.
- Parents will be issued with a word list. Parents are asked to revise these with children.
- Information about topics will be provided to parents at the Autumn Term open evening and through an information sheet issued at the commencement of each topic. This will include vocabulary in relation to Mathematics work and suggestions as to practical help that can be given to your child at home.
- As children progress, continued support at home is requested in respect of development of correct letter and number formation in line with the school script.
- Parents are asked to reinforce phonic sounds being taught. These can be identified through a current phonics sheet, which will be kept in your child's book bag throughout the school year.
- Maths homework once a week (which will begin after autumn half term) will be sent home. The activities are generally practical. Please ensure they are carried out and sign the home/school link book.
- Parents will be asked to support a range of mathematical activities as detailed in the Year 1 objectives that will be issued at the Autumn Term Open Evening.
- A maths homework book will be issued in due course together with an exercise book. We would be grateful if you could record how your child responded to the practical activity.
- Words will be sent home (in the form of flashcards) that your child will need to learn to enhance their progress through the reading scheme. These words need to be returned to your child's bookbag every evening. Please go over these with your child each day. We will monitor the learning of the words on a weekly basis and will issue new words to the children as appropriate.
- Throughout the year certain work may be sent home. This may either be unfinished work or work to consolidate learning. We would appreciate your co-operation in ensuring your child completes this as independently as possible.

Year 2

1. Class reading book will be brought home from a graded reading box on a daily basis. Your child will have a reading record card to enable them to make comments in regard to their reading and enjoyment of the book. Your child will be asked to complete at least once a week a pro-forma book review on one of their guided reading books. These will be collated in a folder to enable other children in the class to review books before selecting them.
2. Your child may also have a library book selected from the school library.
3. Parents will be issued with the literacy word list, which most children will be able to recognise and spell by the end of Year 2.
4. Your child will be given a list of spellings every Thursday. These will be tested along with a dictation the following Thursday.
5. Parents are asked to encourage children to write stories.
6. Parents are asked if they can reinforce the mathematical vocabulary used in the numeracy strategy (see separate sheet).
7. Children are expected to do a specified piece of maths homework from the Abacus Scheme. The will be set on a Monday to be completed and returned on the following Monday.
8. Counting in 2's, 3's, 4's, 5's, 6's, 10's and 11's.
9. Practical money activities including recognition of coins, counting amounts up to £1 and shopping problems.
10. Recognise, name and state properties of 2D and 3D shapes.
11. Addition and subtraction. Division and multiplication after Christmas.
12. Reinforce concept of tens and units.
13. Practise mental calculations.
14. Revision of number bonds up to 20.

The children will be given reinforcement work in connection with the SATs programme during the school holidays.

By the Summer Term, as appropriate for individual children, guided chapter books will be sent home for children to undertake set related literacy work.

JUNIORS

As the children get older, more directed tasks will be set. Homework does not need to be written down before it is called homework. For example, a pupil may be asked to research material for a particular topic. A good general knowledge to include capital cities, countries, currency, plants, UK towns, cities, rivers etc can be acquired through revision at home. Children also need free time to pursue their own interests and hobbies: Scouts, Guides, Cubs, Brownies, sport, music, instrumental practice if learning an instrument. Reading to/with your child remains an important activity.

Homework will be set to consolidate class work in reading, writing, number and mathematical activities. Mathematical activities are set on a weekly basis, to be completed as homework. Weekly spellings are sent home to be learnt for the following week's test. You are requested to sign your child's spelling book to indicate they have learnt the words to be tested.

There will be regular feedback and follow up with the pupils, appropriate to the age of the children and task set. Strategies for future development will be discussed with the pupil and, if necessary, with the parent on an appropriate occasion eg Parents' Evening.

** N.B. The levels stated for multiplication tables may not be applicable to all children.*

Homework Framework:

As appropriate, homework will include:-

Year 3:

- Daily reading (a minimum of 15 minutes per night is recommended) plus a weekly focused reading task. (Parents are reminded that this should normally be a shared task with the child.)
- One practical maths activity/game weekly.
- One written maths task.
- Weekly spellings.
- Multiplication tables, 3,4,6 - revise and know 1,2,5,10*.

Other practical activities will include:

- Handwriting practice where it is felt necessary for individuals.
- Research skills as half-termly topics identified on curriculum web.
- Specific tasks set by teacher from time to time.

Year 4:

- Daily reading (a minimum of 20 minutes per night is recommended). plus a weekly focused reading task.
- One activity from the Mental Arithmetic book weekly.
- One maths activity from the CPG workbook weekly.
- Weekly spellings.
- Multiplication tables 7,8 - revise others*.
- Completion of activities not finished in class as necessary.
- A weekly written task.

Other practical activities will include:

- Handwriting practice as appropriate to individual pupils.
- Research skills developed through the half termly topics identified on curriculum web.
- Specific tasks set by teacher.

Year 5:

In preparation for work to be undertaken in year 6 children will be issued with a Homework Diary in which to record the work they are set.

- Reading (a minimum of 20 minutes per night is recommended). plus a weekly focused reading task.
- Handwriting as appropriate to individual pupils.

- One page from Mental Arithmetic weekly
- One page from CPG weekly.
- Weekly spellings.
- Research skills development at the commencement of each half termly topic as identified on the curriculum web.
- Multiplication tables - learn 9,11,12 - revise and know up to 9*.
- Catching up on class activities not completed.
- One language activity per week.

Year 6:

This is a time to prepare the children for Key Stage 2 tests and transfer to secondary school and the commitment this entails. To 'ease' the children into their first year (Year 7 - Key Stage 3) at secondary school, we aim to:

- Encourage self-discipline in completing tasks at home and in school.
- Continue to develop independent learning skills and attitudes to enable the pupils to use their initiative in all learning environments.
- Prepare pupils for the secondary homework commitment.

Your child should continue, as in Year 5, to enter the tasks set by a teacher in their homework diary. This is checked regularly in the first term but thereafter your child is expected to assume a greater responsibility for this task. If problems arise, please make a comment in the diary.

Homework activities will include:

- Reading – 20 minutes a day recommended minimum guided reading with focus.
- Handwriting as appropriate to individual pupils.
- Maths activities set by teacher twice a week. (One page from their Mental Arithmetic book plus an additional task.)
- Research skill development, which will include independent projects.
- Weekly spellings.
- Catching up on class initiated tasks and activities if not completed.
- Twice weekly homework task.

It is important to emphasise that children should never continue a task if it causes distress or if it is too late in the evening or something arises that makes completion of any set task impossible.

Where it is unavoidable that extended holidays be taken during the school term, it is important to encourage your child to regard it as an educational visit, providing the opportunity to extend their knowledge of the country/area visited.

We value the continued support of parents to both their children and the school. We hope the school's homework policy clearly expresses our hopes and wishes in the interests of our children.