

Homework: Parents' / Carers' Guide



Daily Expectations

Children should do these each day – a little and often works best!

Spellings Practice learning spellings in preparation for a Friday spelling test is important. Y1 – Y2: 6 – 10 words Y3 – Y6: 8 – 12 words Spellings might relate to tricky words, high-frequency words, or important spelling rules / patterns. Daily practice for a short while is more effective than last-minute 'cramming' on Thursday night.	Reading We stress the importance of reading. This could be fiction, non-fiction, magazines, websites, instructions. Reading to your child (or sometimes a story tape) is really valuable for all children, so even a bedtime story counts! A variety of different reading activities and texts is important for your child to broaden his / her skills. A minimum of 10-15 minutes daily reading is expected.	Times Tables (Y2 – Y6) Times tables facts should be known by the end of Y4 – this means being able to say the answer to a multiplication or division question (up to 10x10) within five seconds. Practice learning tables in preparation for a Friday tables test is important – don't forget that division facts should also be known. Daily practice for a short while is more effective than last-minute 'cramming' on Thursday night.
Top Tips: Parents / carers could also work with the child by using the words in written sentences or stories (to also practice handwriting and punctuation) or even in conversations (speaking and listening for the words).	Top Tips: Reading aloud to an adult is encouraged, even for older children. Also very important is discussing the texts with the child eg asking questions about the characters in a book, the layout of a factual book and the views of a website or magazine.	Top Tips: Parents / carers should work with the child by working out different strategies and 'top tips'. Practice in the car, walking to school etc all helps. Chanting forwards, backwards and alternating as you count through can all help, as can CDs and internet games.

Weekly Expectations

The homework should take a minimum of around 30 - 40 minutes and could be carried out over a few days.

Creative homework This involves a creative piece of open-ended work based around an 'I can...' statement e.g. 'I can use research skills to find out about a country.' 'I know how instructions are used' Only one rule: don't use more than one page of A4. Content will be a balanced mix of subjects.	Talk Time homework This involves a discussion topic eg 'Should animals be kept in zoos?' Children should make notes (even pictures, diagrams etc.) ready to participate in a class / group discussion on the topic.	Practice makes Perfect homework This might be less frequent than the other two pieces, but sometimes a worksheet or series of questions might be useful to develop skills and speed e.g. practising column addition.
Top Tips: Be as creative as you like! Talk with your child to generate ideas: Could the homework be in the form of a poster, a letter, a comic strip, some writing, a PowerPoint...? Could it use photos, drawings, fold-out 'extras' on the page...?	Top Tips: Turn the telly off! Sit around the dining table! Have a chat and share opinions and ideas! Children should talk with family, friends and each other. (Your child might want to make some notes in their Homework Books.)	Top Tips: Take care not to confuse your child! This homework will be given out when the teacher knows your child can do the work using a particular method taught. You can help by asking your child to explain the method and encouraging him / her to check answers.