



**Learning Together**

# **HOMework**

**A Guide for Parents/Carers**



# HOMEWORK: A Guide for Parents/Carers

## The School aims to provide homework that:

- Matches the age and ability of the children
- Reinforces and extends learning that has taken place in school
- Encourages self-motivation, self-reliance and responsibility
- Develops organisational skills and independence
- Stimulates enjoyment and fosters an interest in learning
- Strengthens the links between home and school
- Provides opportunities for research from sources of information that may not be accessible in the classroom
- Establishes good routines in readiness for transfer to the next class or school

This guide has been compiled to help parents and carers to understand how they can help their children gain the maximum benefit from homework tasks and avoid the anxieties and conflicts that can arise. We hope that you find it useful.



## Establishing Routines

We ask parents/carers to support us in seeing that homework tasks are completed **conscientiously**. Children need support to establish their own routines. Some may prefer working in a room on their own, but many children need their parents or carers company and encouragement to give them confidence.

**Parents can help their children by** taking an interest and discussing the homework, providing praise and encouragement, checking presentation, handwriting and spelling, helping to find relevant resources, taking part in activities and games when necessary and ensuring that the work represents your child's own efforts.



## What should I do if.....?

- **My child does not understand the homework task**  
We will make every effort to explain the tasks to the children and supply worksheets when appropriate. If your child still doesn't understand and you are unable to help them, please leave the activity and write a short note of explanation.
- **The homework task is too easy or too difficult**  
Although we aim to match your child's homework to their level we also realise that it can be difficult to ensure the level of challenge is always suitable. If there are any problems, it is important to let the teacher know.
- **My child cannot complete the work within the allotted time**  
If your child is concentrating but struggling to finish the homework on time please try to encourage them to stop working and reassure them that their teacher will still be pleased with their efforts. Please try to find time to write a short note of explanation.
- **My child is too busy to complete the homework task**  
If other important commitments mean that there is not enough time to complete the homework please write a short note of explanation and try to put some time aside on another day.
- **My child is reluctant to complete the homework task**  
If your child does not want to do the work please try to encourage them by offering help and support the schools' policy by explaining the benefits of homework. If they are still reluctant please don't pressurise them but try to make an appointment with the class teacher so we can work together to resolve the situation.



## The Homework Timetable

The Homework timetable shows the usual arrangements for each year group. The work centres on the core skills within the literacy and numeracy strategies and has a common focus of reading, spelling and number facts for all classes (Homework for reception children focuses entirely on reading).

The maximum time to be spent on any homework activity is indicated for each year group along with the specific curriculum area.

Year	Maximum Time (Per homework)	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
R	10mins					
1	15mins	Literacy/Spelling (To be completed for Friday)				
2	15mins	Literacy/Spelling (To be completed for Friday)				
3	20mins	Literacy/Numeracy (To be completed for Friday)				
4	30mins	Literacy/Numeracy (To be completed for Friday)				
5	40mins				Numeracy (To be completed for Monday)	Literacy/Spellings (To be completed for Wednesday)
6	50mins		Literacy/Spellings (To be completed for Wednesday)			Numeracy /Literacy (To be completed for Monday)

- Please note that we encourage all children to read at home each day
- Please be aware that the timetables may be subject to change and that the details will be circulated within termly curriculum outlines e.g. special projects



## **Literacy: Helping your child with handwriting**

Pupils learn cursive handwriting script from reception onwards. We know that when children develop a neat joined script using the correct pencil grip it helps them to remember spelling patterns and to write without putting stress on their fingers and arms. In the early years children are encouraged to develop their skills by using thick pencils or chalk and practising writing patterns using their fingers in the air and in sand. Please encourage your child to use joined handwriting, examples of lower case letters are given below. Please note that all letters begin with an upstroke.



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