



HOMEWORK POLICY

September 2025

A survey was sent to parents in September 2024 to help the school get an understanding of parental views on the value of homework to inform the new Homework Policy for 2024/25. We received feedback from just over half of the families and the results regarding homework opinions were close. While most parents/guardians agreed that homework plays an important role in children's education, responses were almost equally split regarding the provision of homework and its contents. In order to respect and recognise the views of the parent community teachers will provide written homework on an opt-in basis and parents can choose whether their child will complete homework or not. While homework is encouraged as a way to reinforce learning, children will not face any negative consequences if any homework is not completed. Our priority is your child's well-being and positive attitude toward learning. We understand that family life can be busy and that children may have other commitments or challenges outside of school. If homework is not completed, or if you choose for your child to opt out of written homework, please be reassured—your child will not be penalised or singled out in any way.

This Homework Policy outlines our purpose in setting homework for those parents who request it and our aims when giving homework; the frequency and length of homework for each age group and guidance for parents. We value homework and consider it an important bridge between classroom experience and home and feel it can be an opportunity for parents to participate in their child's learning.

Homework by itself may or may not produce better academic achievement. However, research indicates with the home and the school working together, children develop lifelong study skills, self-discipline, and independence. As pupils become more experienced at managing the challenges of homework, it is hoped that they will develop and strengthen life skills such as responsibility, accountability, independence, communication, time management, organization, self-reliance and perseverance.

The most important consideration is that homework is integrated into the curriculum, has a clear purpose which is relevant to the curriculum and that the homework task is clearly understood by the pupils for whom it is set.

Purpose of Homework

1. To reinforce, revise and review work done in class.
2. As an extension/enrichment of work done in class.
3. To encourage independent learning.
4. To create a link between home and school involving parents where appropriate.
5. To prepare for future classes.

Our Aims When Setting Homework

1. Homework will be clearly related to ongoing classroom work.
2. The purpose of the homework given will be clear to pupils and the task itself will be fully explained.
3. Homework will be organised in a clear predictable pattern.
4. A variety of homework, developing different skills and involving a range of activities and subjects, will be given.
5. Homework will be manageable. Overburdening pupils with homework would prove to be

counter-productive.

6. The level of difficulty of homework will be carefully gauged and will take account of pupils' needs and abilities. The homework will challenge pupils but not be so difficult that it is beyond their capabilities.
7. Homework will allow pupils to exercise initiative and creativity.
8. Homework will promote self-confidence and understanding. Work prepared for a class, particularly when this work is for presentation by the pupil to the class, can promote self-confidence and understanding.
9. The work that is sent home will be work that pupils can approach independently.

Homework will include a combination of the following:

Reading

Spellings (P2-P7)

Number Facts/Tables

Curriculum related activity

Reading

Primary 1 – 4

Reading is organised in coloured book bands according to group ability and Bug Club online reading programme is used. Children progress through a series of books in each band and must be secure before progressing to another band. Home reading is organised in a similar way but the child chooses a book from a lower reading band to ensure development of confidence and fluency. Home reads should be enjoyable.

Primary 5 – 7

In Key Stage 2, study novels and books on Bug club are used for guided reading in class. Home reading consists of easier reads chosen from Bug Club and Accelerated Reader or appropriate novels available in class.

Spelling

Each pupil will be given a group of spellings for four nights in a row. The fourth night will be a revision night. The spelling programmes used in the school incorporate a combination of high frequency words and rhyming words. Children are encouraged to learn their spellings using the look, visualise, say, cover, write and check method.

Look – Look at the whole word.

Visualise – Look at the size, shape. Position/orientation of each letter in the word.

Say – Say the word.

Cover – Cover the word

Write – Write the word

Check – Check the word has been written correctly and try again.

Frequency and Length of Homework

Homework is given to all children from P1-P7. Homework is given from Monday-Thursday. Learning rates vary so it is difficult to state an exact amount of time that should be spent on homework each evening. P1-P3 pupils are not expected to spend more than forty-five minutes on homework, with one hour being the limit for the older children. Below sets out an approximate guide in relation to time spent on homework by each year group.

- Primary 1 – 15 mins (reading) + 10 mins (practical/investigative/written)**
- Primary 2 - 15 mins (reading) + 15 mins (spellings/number facts) + 10 mins (practical/investigative/written)**
- Primary 3 – 15 mins (reading) + 15 mins (spellings/number facts) + 15 mins (practical/investigative/written)**
- Primary 4 – 15 mins (reading) + 15 mins (spellings/tables) + 20 mins (practical/investigative/written)**
- Primary 5 - 15 mins (reading) + 15 mins (spellings/tables) + 20 mins (practical/investigative/written)**
- Primary 6 – 15 mins (reading) + 15 mins (spellings/tables) + 25 mins (practical/investigative/written)**
- Primary 7 – 15 mins (reading) +15 mins (spellings/tables) + 30 mins (practical/investigative/written)**

Nursery

The nursery has a lending library for children to have access to books at home. The children will be supported to choose a book to take home every Monday, before returning the book to nursery the following week. This is a fantastic opportunity for parents and their child to have fun together whilst promoting early language, reading and writing skills.

A monthly / themed challenge for parents to try is also given out and parents are encouraged with "Fun Friday" ideas every week.

Primary 1

Homework does not start until October when children start their full days.

Core reading is uploaded via Seesaw using Book Creator or Bug Club. Home reads are selected for the children and the title is recorded on the front of their homework books. Homework is introduced to the children on Monday so they're aware of what is expected from them. Two homeworks go home each week – one literacy and one numeracy. They consolidate the children's learning from the previous week. Homework may also take the form of a practical activity to incorporate theme work and is sent home on a Monday and returned on a Thursday.

These will be activities which are manageable for Primary 1 to extend classwork and to provide parents with a glimpse of the curriculum. The homework will include a short statement or specific instructions for parents. The number of homeworks sent home each week will increase as the year progresses and by the end of the year, Primary 1 pupils will have homework three times per week.

Primary 2

Homework begins the first week of school in Primary 2 and is set three times per week, one written numeracy and one literacy per week. A digital Seesaw homework is also uploaded as an option as well as Bug Club for extra reads. Home links to online games are also included. A weekly spelling activity which complements the week's spellings is uploaded on Seesaw for the week ahead. Spellings are written out every day on whiteboards and there is spelling quiz on a Friday. Children write spellings on whiteboards and then upload them onto Seesaw for adults at home. A set of 50 words on cards is sent home at the start of the year and parents are informed of the words of the week. Once a term, a weekly show and tell activity is set for Friday for talking and listening; this can include an arts and craft activity. If a child has requested a board game played in class, this is also facilitated.

Primary 3

From Primary 3, pupils will have homework three times a week. Stamina, independence and accountability are stressed as pupils begin to manage their homework with less parental involvement. P3 homework is handed out on Monday and returned on Thursday. At the beginning of the year, children are provided with the first 100 high frequency words and every week, they are given a literacy homework, a numeracy homework, number facts and spellings. Spellings are written out every day on whiteboards and there is spelling quiz on a Friday. P3 homework also includes an online learning game (usually linked to number facts) and 15 minutes reading a night (Bug Club or a book of choice).

Primary 4

In Primary 4, literacy and numeracy written homeworks are handed out on a Monday to be completed and returned on a Thursday. These are provided on a worksheet and are related to what has been taught in class. This is also shared with the children and explained each day before they go home. This is differentiated to meet the needs of all 4 groups. Spellings and tables for the week are sent home on worksheets on a Monday. On occasions, the children will be asked to complete a project over 2 weeks related to the current theme. Reading is assigned on Bug Club, unless a parent has specifically asked for a hard back book.

Primary 5

Homework in Primary 5 is posted on Seesaw on a Monday afternoon and is to be completed by Friday. Home reading is from Bug Club and Accelerated Reader and is completed each night along with a written homework, consolidating work covered in Literacy, Maths and Thematic Unit. The Prim-Ed Spelling Scheme and Sounds in Focus is used in P5. Table facts are also part of their learning homework.

Primary 6

P6 homework is posted on Seesaw on a Monday afternoon and is to be completed by Friday. Home reading is from Bug Club and Accelerated Reader. A combination of Prim-Ed Spelling Scheme and Sounds in Focus is used in P6. Written homework will include literacy, numeracy and thematic work. Learning homework will also include times tables and maths facts.

Primary 7

Numeracy and Literacy homework is handed out Monday – Thursday. Home reading is from Bug Club and Accelerated Reader. The Prim-Ed Spelling Scheme is used in P7.

Specialist Provision (Social Communication) Classes

Fox Class FS/KS1

A home communication sheet is sent home on Seesaw to every parent at the beginning of the week. This includes information about PE days, changes to routine and also what they are currently learning about in their theme.

Children receive a homework folder on Monday with spellings, number facts, a written literacy homework and written numeracy homework. Depending on their ability, they may have a word wallet and phonics wallet. Children are given a login for Bug Club online to access books for home reading. Their homework folder is asked to be returned every Thursday. As every child's homework is different, their homework is uploaded on Seesaw each week.

Hedgehog Class FS/KS1

In SCC, parents have two options in terms of homework.

Option 1 – full homework. This includes sounds and words of the week, spellings (when children are confident) and two homework activities per week. This homework can be in the form of a written worksheet or game to play with parents, to consolidate learning in the classroom. Additionally, the

pupils get a home reading book to read with parents/guardians. Homework and reading books are to be returned by a Friday at the latest.

Option 2 – Learning homework and reading book. This includes the sounds and words of the week, and a home reading book for pupils to read with their parents/guardians. Reading books are to be returned by a Friday at the latest.

At the beginning of each half term, while the pupils are learning phonics and high frequency words, a sheet is shared with the parents via Seesaw, detailing the sounds and words learnt to date and which ones will be the focus of each week within that half term. On a weekly basis, a home link sheet is sent via Seesaw on a Monday for all parents to view the homework for that week.

Specialist Provision (Learning) Class Key Stage 1 Squirrel Class

Homework is set on a Monday, for those who are ready, and returned on a Thursday. There is 1 literacy and numeracy plus 1 other topic related written activity each week. Spellings and number facts go home as well as home reads as and when children are ready. ORT reading books are used for Shared and Guided reading.

Cedar Learning Support Class / Elder and Oak Social Communication Classes KS2

Within our Key Stage Two Specialist Provision Classes, written homework is provided through an opt-in option for parents at the beginning of the year. Children are provided with a learning homework (spellings and times tables facts) or 'full' homework (spellings, times tables and EITHER a numeracy or literacy activity based on class learning from that week). Both levels of homework are differentiated for the needs of the pupils and all homework activities are explained on Monday before being sent home.

Homework is sent home on Monday afternoon and should be returned to school on Friday morning. Pupils follow the Oxford 'Readerful' book scheme in class and, for those who choose, online Bug Club books are provided for home reading. Spellings are taken from the 'Sounds in Focus' series which identifies and revises a specific phoneme or diagraph each week.

Otter, Frog and Owl SLD Classes

Seesaw sensory activities for all profiles, recipes or different sensory circuits etc are posted every week. Speech and language also provide a leaflet with lots of home activities.

Parents are also encouraged to use Ginger Tiger, a great website for SEN learners which has all different levels and stages. There are also speech and language games, cause and effect, literacy and numeracy activities. The games are set at different levels matched to pupil ability.

After School Homework Club

An After School Homework Club takes place once a week from 2.50 – 3.30 for P7 pupils, facilitated by West Church volunteers.

Homework requirements may vary from time to time and be relaxed during the last week of a term and during the month of June.

Parent's Role

Parents are the key to making homework a positive experience for their children. The school recognises the important contribution a parent makes to their child's education.

Homework provides a wonderful opportunity for teachers and parents to work in partnership to support a child's learning. Homework assignments offer parents a view of the direction their child is taking. They are small pieces of a larger curriculum puzzle. Returned work with teacher comments allows parents to get a sense of teacher expectations, see how their child is faring and to assess the level of commitment and effort appropriate for a particular year group and type of activity.

Generally, the goal for parents is to help children learn to help themselves. Adults can set children up for success by providing:

- A quiet space
- A consistent time each day
- A distraction-free period
- Materials, colouring pencils, markers, tape, glue, scissors, pencils, pens, erasers
- Help with instructions, if necessary
- Questions, rather than answers
- A reminder to include name and date
- Reminders that echo the teacher's words and approach
- A reminder to review/proofread work
- An expectation that children do their best work
- Warm, supportive encouragement

Homework Tips for Parents:

- Check for homework.
- Choose a quiet place and time to complete homework.
- Support, clarify, and motivate, BUT DO NOT DO THE HOMEWORK FOR YOUR CHILD.
- Be wary if your child never has homework.
- If you are not satisfied with the standard of your child's work and wish him to repeat it, please do not tear out the page. Use another clean page to start again.
- Talk with teacher(s) if a large number of homeworks are too difficult or time consuming for your child. Learning rates vary so it is difficult to articulate an exact amount of time that should be spent on homework each evening.
- If your child's homework is taking longer to complete than the specified time set out for the age group, ask your child to stop and inform the teacher in writing.

Home Reading:

- Show interest in your child's book – discuss their choice of book and the book in general.
- Talk to them about the characters and the plot.

- Listen to what your child is saying and give them time for self-correction.
- Encourage your child to use context and general knowledge to unlock unknown words.
- Give the smallest help to set things right.
- If the mistake doesn't change the meaning, don't interrupt the flow of reading.
- Remember your child is reading for meaning not just to prove that he/she can recognise the words.
- Give praise for effort and success.
- Enjoy reading with your child.