

PARENT/CARERS' GUIDE TO HOMEWORK

At St Paul's, we see homework not only as a way of consolidating and extending work completed at school but also as a vital aid to sharing weekly learning with families and supporting children to make good progress. It is designed to:

- Support and extend learning
- Encourage critical thinking
- Practise basic skills in English and Maths
- Encourage children to become independent and take individual responsibility for their learning.
- Extend and support learning through reinforcement and revision.

Homework helps children get into the habit of making time to study on their own. It also prepares them for a smooth transfer from primary school to high school.

What type and amount of homework will be given?

READING is key to everything your child will do in school. For younger children little and often is best – 10-15 minutes daily is a good habit. As children become older they should be encouraged to sustain their concentration for longer periods of time, and to read with increasing independence. Time spent on reading should range from approximately 10 minutes in Key Stage 1 and up to 30 minutes in Key Stage 2. We appreciate this isn't always possible every day but a minimum of 3-4 times a week should be encouraged. In addition to this, children should read books from their own collection or the local library. When parents/carers have heard their child read they should complete the reading record book (or Homework Diary) detailing the date, title, pages read and any comments. Children will be supported in changing their school reading books once they have finished reading them.

Other tasks will depend on the age and ability of children, but in general terms the following can be expected:

Reception

In Reception, during the first term, the homework will be given once a week and will be focused on their phonics learning from that week in school to embed the new phonemes and graphemes. They will also receive one reading book each week.

After the Autumn term alongside the phonics, the children will also receive a piece of maths homework each week that will support the learning that has happened in class that week.

Together with the work sent home from school the children will also be asked to spend some time on their online number and phonics learning, Teach Your Monster to Read and Numbots, as these will both support the children's fluency in maths and reading. The children will be



able to progress in line with their abilities and earn certificates that will be presented in school.

YEAR 1 AND 2

In Key Stage 1 it is anticipated that children will need to spend 20 minutes each day in order to complete the set tasks.

The following tasks are to be completed on a weekly basis:

1. English

- Spelling practise sheets are sent home on Fridays. Children should practise their spellings at home every day, and find out the meaning of any unfamiliar words by either asking someone or looking them up in a dictionary. The children should pick 5 of their spellings and put each one of them into a sentence (in their green spelling sentence books). The spelling sentence books should be returned to school on the following Thursday so your teacher can mark them. The spelling test will take place every Friday in class
- Reading: Books should be changed at least once a week. Book changing days are Monday and Friday
- Children need to practise their handwriting regularly. When the children are writing their spelling sentences and completing their homework – please remind them to focus on the formation of their letters.

2. Mathematics:

- Mathletics- Children must complete a minimum of 1000 points - these are reset every Sunday.
- KIRFs: At the start of each half term children will bring home a copy of the KIRF's which their class is working on (Copies of these can be found on the school website). The children should practise these regularly- little and often is best!

In addition to this, each Friday a piece of Maths, English or Topic Work is sent home. This should be completed in the yellow homework book and returned to school by the following Thursday.



YEAR 3 AND 4

As children move Key Stage 2 it is anticipated that children will need to spend 30 minutes each day in order to complete the set tasks.

The following tasks are to be completed on a weekly basis:

1. English

- Spelling lists are sent home each Friday to be tested on the following Thursday. Children should practise their spellings at home every day, and find out the meaning of any unfamiliar words by either asking someone or looking them up in a dictionary.
- Once children are familiar with Google Classroom, spelling homework is set on this platform and goes live every Friday. At the beginning of the year children will continue to practise spellings on paper as in KS1.
- Spellings should be practised on Spelling shed (minimum 20 mins weekly)
- Reading: Books should be changed at least once a week (10 mins daily is expected). This should be recorded in the reading record.

2. Mathematics:

- Mathletics- Children must complete a minimum of 1000 points - these are reset every Sunday.
- KIRFs and Times Tables: At the start of each half term children will bring home a copy of the KIRF's which their class is working on-Copies of these can be found on the school website. The children should practise these regularly- little and often is best! In addition to this, children need to learn their times tables ready for the MTC check towards the end of year 4 (see details on Y4 Class page of the school website)

In addition to this, each Thursday a piece of Maths or English is sent home. This should be completed in the homework book provided and returned to school by the following Wednesday.

YEAR 5 AND 6

As children progress towards the end of their time in Primary School they may often be given additional activities and this will also include SATs revision. It is expected that parents encourage greater independence as children move into upper Key Stage 2 and it is anticipated that children will need to spend 45 minutes each day in order to complete the set tasks.

The following tasks are to be completed on a weekly basis:

1. English

- Homework is set on Google classroom and goes live every Friday.
- Spellings should be practised on Spelling shed (minimum 30 mins weekly)
- A spag.com test is to be completed every week (reset each Friday)



- Reading: Books should be changed at least once a week (20 mins 3x weekly is expected) and should be recorded in the homework diary.

2. **Mathematics:**

- Mathletics- Children must complete a minimum of 1000 points - these are reset every Sunday.
- Arithmetic: Complete the next test in the Schofield & Sims book. Replacement books can be purchased from school (£3.50) if required. They should be bought into school for marking each Monday.
- At the start of each half term children will bring home a copy of the KIRF's which their class is working on (Copies of these can be found on the school website). The children should practise these regularly- little and often is best!

What happens when the homework is completed?

The teacher will mark the work and give feedback either verbally or through written comments on the work. It may also be through tests, for example spelling and tables tests, or self-marking by the child with the whole class.

What happens if my child does not hand in the homework?

If there are good reasons for children not completing the homework please speak to your child's teacher. For the younger children we hope that encouragement from home and school will be sufficient to ensure the completion of the homework. Teachers will talk to individuals if homework is regularly missed. If homework has not been completed then children will usually be expected to complete it at break times or lunchtime, where they will receive support to do so.

FINALLY BUT IMPORTANTLY: We cannot emphasise enough that children should have leisure time, and time to take part in out-of-school activities, clubs, meet with friends etc. Homework should not take over and fill all their spare time during this important time in their development. Any additional activities you can do with your child, such as cooking, reading, visiting the library, visiting interesting places and playing games, will all contribute to their learning.