

Homework Information

St John's
Catholic Primary School



We are passing on the discoveries and work of the previous generations to the next, whilst empowering pupils to add to this body of knowledge in the future.

At St. John's, we think that it is important for children to practise what they have learned in class at home to help them to be the best that they can be – our homework gives them the opportunity to do this. Homework will be received weekly as detailed below and on occasions there may be topic based or practice activities.

Introduction

At St. John's Primary School, we believe that homework can add much to a pupil's development and attainment and is therefore an important part of a child's education.

Aims of the policy

Through implementation of this policy, we aim to:

- Give pupils the opportunity to extend their learning in areas of personal interest
- Ensure a consistent approach throughout the school
- To encourage children to develop the confidence, independence, self-discipline and motivation needed to study on their own and prepare them for the next phase of education
- To make set homework relevant and meaningful for the child linked to work done at school
- Make expectations about homework clear to children, parents and other carers
- Provide opportunities for parents and children to work together, thereby, fostering an effective partnership between home and school

Why do we value homework?

Children benefit greatly from the mutual support of parents and teachers in encouraging them to learn both at home and at school. By valuing home-school learning, pupils are afforded the chance to practice skills, consolidate understanding of work covered in the classroom and to widen their own interests. Moreover, developing good study habits provides an opportunity for pupils to develop self-discipline, independence and the ability to take responsibility for their own learning.

Principles

- The amount and difficulty of homework is tailored according to the child's age and ability.
- Sufficient time is allowed for the completion of homework to allow for a healthy home/school work balance.
- As the children progress through the school the amount of homework increases.
- Teachers ensure that the tasks are differentiated, purposeful and aimed at developing and consolidating basic skills.

- Teachers provide parents and pupils with clear learning objectives and motivational instructions for tasks as well as clear examples of work to guide both children and adults.
- High expectations for neat presentation are in place to ensure that children maintain the same high standard of work at home as in school.
- Homework should be linked to previous learning and key skills and must be meaningful and relevant. Homework may also be in the form of research for an upcoming topic.
- Parents will be informed about our aims in setting homework and about the importance this type of work plays in children's education

Please find expectations for homework below.

Reading

We expect all pupils to read at home (or be read to) every day. A record of this is then kept in the child's reading record book. Children in Reception and Year 1 will take home two books each night. These books will be given to children in reception once they are ready for them as they begin to follow our Little Wandle Phonics Scheme.

1. One book will be closely matched to the child's current knowledge of phonics to enable them to practise applying this knowledge when decoding words. These books will be carefully selected by the class teacher so that children can read these books confidently with very little help. Parents will recognise these books as they will either have the Sounds-Write logo on the front or will be called Dandelion Launchers/Readers.

2. The second book will be a story book which pupils can share with family at home. These books are not closely matched to pupils phonic knowledge and so are designed to be read together with a parent or carer. Please remember that you shouldn't expect your child to read this alone. Read it to or with them. Discuss the pictures, enjoy the story, predict what might happen next, use different voices for the characters, explore the facts in a non-fiction book. The main thing is that you have fun!

Children in the nursery will be given a sharing book to take home. Year 2 will bring one book home- closely matched to their phonics stage.

Pupils in Key Stage 2 may continue to take a book home each night which is matched to their phonic ability if further practice is needed. Other pupils in KS2 will take home a reading book which will be broadly matched to pupils' current reading ability.

Spelling

We expect pupils to learn a small set of spellings each week. Each week pupils will have a set of spellings which will all contain a common sound, pattern or spelling rule. Learning spellings is best completed in short bursts over the course of the week. Pupils will take a test on the weekly spellings and a selection of other previously learned spellings or National Curriculum words each week. Key Stage 2 have access to Spelling Shed, which matches the spellings they are learning in class.

Handwriting and Phonics

If you wish to do additional handwriting or phonics work with your children at home, please see the school website 'learning' area for phonics, handwriting, letter formation and number formation information and activities.

Mathematics

We expect all pupils to practise recalling their number facts (including number bonds and times tables) for a few minutes each day. A useful resource for parents in Year 1 and Year 2 is the Numbots website which helps pupils secure their knowledge of number bonds.

<https://numbots.com/families/>

Similarly, a useful resource for parents of KS2 children is the Times Tables Rock Stars website which helps pupils secure their times tables knowledge. Both Numbots and TTRS can be accessed via the same login information which will be provided by your child's classteacher at the start of the year. Please speak to them if you do not have this information.

Other Subjects

We expect pupils to learn the information on their Knowledge Organiser sheets which are available on the school website at the start of each half term. The elements to be learned will be posted on Parent Hub by class teachers. We expect them to know this core information off by heart. Retrieval practice is a key skill in learning, retaining and developing knowledge.

Poetry Recital Performances

We expect pupils to learn a certain number of poems across the year and we share those at different opportunities throughout the different terms.

Our Approach to Homework

At St. John's, we believe it is vital for children to learn significant information 'by heart' so that it makes learning in the future much easier. This is best done in short bursts each day rather than spending time on long pieces of homework once a week. If you have any further questions about homework please speak to your

child's class teacher.

Expectations

It is the expectation that all children will at least attempt to complete homework tasks to the best of their ability. If pupils need support to access these activities, then they are invited to attend the weekly lunch-time homework club, run by staff, where IT and stationery will be readily available.

Dates for handing homework in are always made explicit by the class teacher. Pupils are expected to complete homework to the same high standards insisted on in class e.g. neat handwriting, accurate use of full stops and capital letters etc.

SEND and Inclusion

If your child has special educational needs we will adapt homework to suit them if this is needed. Also, if your child ever receives any homework which you feel is too difficult or it is not clear what to do then please speak to the class teacher. While we do expect children to complete all homework, we do not want this to be a source of anxiety for you or your children.

All homework given is designed to meet the needs of the pupils. Teachers ensure that children have the knowledge and support to complete any homework given. Parents are welcome to talk to teachers at the end of the day about any issues regarding homework. Homework tasks will always have clear instructions to help parents understand the purpose of the work and will generally be a revision of what has already been taught in lessons.

Teachers ensure that children have sufficient time to complete any homework given.

What else can parents do?

If you would like to do more with your child to support their education, we would suggest providing them with a range of rich experiences that will give them increased knowledge of the world. This knowledge is invaluable in developing reading comprehension ability and gives children a wealth of information to draw on when writing in school. Suggestions of places to visit include museums, art galleries, nature reserves, theatres, libraries and restaurants. For further information regarding activities that the government suggests children should take part in please download this document - [My Activity Passport](#).

Each half term, practical/ life skills homework will be set. This will be something the family can enjoy together and have fun doing too.

How you can help your child with their homework

Below is a list of ways that you as a parent can show your child that you value their homework and the time and effort spent completing it.

The school will also provide clear and regular reminders of their expectation when it comes to homework. As a school we hope that you will find this guidance helpful in supporting your child fully with their homework.

You can show you value your child's homework by:

- providing a suitable place in which your child can do their homework, preferably with an adult to discuss, encourage and support
- making it clear to your child that you value homework and support the school in explaining how it can help learning
- encouraging your child and praising them when they have completed work set
- signing and dating your child's completed homework to show that it is a true reflection of their best efforts
- ensuring work is complete and returned to school on time
- checking your child spends a suitable amount of time on homework

Remember: Homework is about reinforcing, practicing and confidence building... Enthusing your child about undertaking homework and modelling the high value of homework to them is of key importance. Make it fun!

Oracy

Each week there is an 'Oracy' question posted in the school newsletter with stem sentences and key vocabulary. This is an opportunity for families to discuss the question, share thoughts and ideas and support children's developing speaking and listening skills as well as their variety of vocabulary.

Year Group	Activities
Nursery	Reading: (15-20 mins daily) share a book with your child each evening Oracy: spend time with family discussing the oracy question in the newsletter each week- using the stem sentences and vocabulary provided. Each half term: practical, creative or life skills task.
Reception	Reading: (15-20 mins daily)

	<p>Spellings: these may be brought home in the summer term. Maths: games and rhymes (10 mins a day)</p> <p>Oracy: spend time with family discussing the oracy question in the newsletter each week- using the stem sentences and vocabulary provided.</p> <p>Each half term: practical, creative or life skills task.</p>
Year 1 and Year 2	<p>Reading (15-20 minutes daily) Spelling (weekly spellings set) Maths: (10 mins a day) numbots</p> <p>Oracy: spend time with family discussing the oracy question in the newsletter each week- using the stem sentences and vocabulary provided.</p> <p>Each half term: practical, creative or life skills task.</p>
Years 3 and 4	<p>Reading (25 minutes daily) Spelling (weekly spellings set) Maths: TTRS (10 minutes daily) Alternate weeks: grammar or comprehension</p> <p>Oracy: spend time with family discussing the oracy question in the newsletter each week- using the stem sentences and vocabulary provided.</p> <p>Each half term: practical, creative or life skills task.</p>
Years 5 and 6	<p>Reading (25 minutes daily) Spelling (weekly spellings set) Maths: TTRS (10 minutes daily) Alternate weeks: grammar or comprehension</p> <p>Oracy: spend time with family discussing the oracy question in the newsletter each week- using the stem sentences and vocabulary provided.</p> <p>Each half term: practical, creative or life skills task.</p>
Y6	<p>Reading (25 minutes daily) Spelling (weekly spellings set) Maths: TTRS (10 minutes daily) Alternate weeks: grammar or comprehension</p> <p>Y6 may receive SATS revision tasks during the course of the year.</p>

Oracy	Oracy: spend time with family discussing the oracy question in the newsletter each week- using the stem sentences and vocabulary provided.
Half termly practical / life skills homework	Each half term: practical, creative or life skills tasks will be set.
Catholic Life	Children will take it in turns to bring home a prayer bag with activities to share worship with family.