



Homework at St Vigor and St John Church Primary School

We recognise the crucial importance of an active educational partnership between home and school and how this positively benefits the academic, cultural, social and moral development of individual children. Homework is just one of the ways in which we seek to foster this partnership.

Why is Homework important? The purpose of homework at St Vigor and St John Church School is to enable children to reinforce and consolidate skills, and to broaden the context of learning to provide enrichment and extension. It also provides opportunities for parents to be involved in their child's learning and empowers children to take responsibility for their own learning, to become independent learners and to develop perseverance.

Homework can include:

Reading: Reading regularly at home is essential. It is the expectation that every child at St Vigor and St John Church School has the opportunity to read at home at least 4 times a week and to record relevant comments in their Home School Learning Diary. Even when children can read fluently, they should be encouraged to discuss their thoughts and justify opinions using clues and evidence from the text.

Spellings: Children will be given 5 spellings, individually selected from a child's writing (ones which they have spelt incorrectly). These are called their 'Focus Five' words. Children will focus on these 5 words until they can spell them correctly in their independent writing.

Words can be changed as the children require them and show they can use them accurately.

We follow this procedure for selecting and practising spellings with the children:

- Record it on your Focus Five grid
- Identify the part you find tricky
- Use it correctly in your work 3 times
- Teacher identifies a new word/s to focus on

Maths: Children may be given reinforcement activities based on the key concepts covered in class. Children will be encouraged to practise the recall of times tables and key number facts each week as appropriate to their age and stage.

Wider Curriculum: As part of wider curriculum learning, children will be provided with a 'menu' of enrichment activities which may link to the term's QUEST. Children can choose any activity from this menu and will receive guidance from their class teacher about when this is due back in school.

Expectations:

Age group	English and Mathematics	Enhancement and Wider Curriculum
Reception	There are no guidelines or timescales at this age. The main emphasis is in developing early literacy skills through reading and practising key words and sounds. Additionally, at the end of each term (prior to a holiday) children are set speaking and listening activities to support Maths, English and the wider curriculum.	Parents and carers are encouraged to complete WOW stickers to celebrate the wider learning and experiences their children have outside school.
Year 1 and 2	Reading at least 4x weekly. Phonics practice/Focus Five spellings. Number Bonds/Times table practice.	Children may choose to complete an additional activity from the wider curriculum homework menu.
Year 3 and 4	Reading at least 4x weekly. Focus Five spellings. Times table practice.	At least fortnightly children to choose an activity from the wider curriculum homework menu.
Year 5 and 6	Reading at least 4x weekly. Focus Five spellings. Times table practice/Doodlemaths In the Spring and Summer terms Year 6 children will also be set SAT revision as homework.	Weekly children to choose an activity from the wider curriculum homework menu.

Supporting Learning and Teaching through Homework

Role of the Class Teacher

- Ensure that any homework is purposeful and links directly to the curriculum being taught.

- Provide an explanation of homework tasks to children and, when necessary, parents and give guidance of how they might assist their child.
- Set regular homework in an easily followed format.
- Set homework that takes equal and racial opportunities into account.
- Regular completion of homework of a high standard is recognised and celebrated.
- Mark homework appropriately, when necessary and give feedback to pupils. This will help to give the whole process of setting and completing homework a higher profile and status.
- The impact of homework upon the standards of children's attainment is monitored and may be included in the report to parents.

Role of Parents and Carers

It is vital that parents display a positive attitude to homework and value its importance. It is also important for parents to recognise that it is the children's responsibility to complete the work. At St Vigor and St John's Church School we are very keen for parents to support and help their children with homework. We take the view that children are likely to get more out of an activity if parents get involved as long as they do not take over too much as we will need to see what children can do on their own. It is particularly important, as they get older, for children to become increasingly independent in their learning. If a parent is unsure about what their role should be, they should discuss it with their child's teacher.

To support your child with Homework, Parents and Carers are asked to:

- Make it clear to your child that homework is an important and valued aspect of school life and support the school in explaining how it can help their learning.
- Praise and encourage your child when they take pride in their homework.
- Where possible, provide a peaceful and comfortable place for your child, free from distractions, (such as television and other devices) where they can concentrate on their homework.
- Encourage your child to read as much and as widely as possible.
- Ensure that your child completes the homework and returns it to school at the agreed time.
- We recommend that parents share out homework tasks across the week, rather than leave it to the last moment and have an intensive session the day before it is to be handed in.

- If parents have any problems or questions about homework, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher. If they wish to make a formal complaint about the school homework policy or the way it is implemented; parents should put their complaint in writing as stated in the Complaints Procedure Policy.

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