



Homework Policy

Holy Trinity CE Primary School

To Flourish and Grow.

At Holy Trinity we believe that primary aged children should be able to explore, experiment and enjoy learning without feeling pressured. We therefore do not wish homework to be a dominating part of our curriculum and ethos. We will provide weekly homework which promotes the development of basic and essential skills, alongside termly 'fun' topic-related activities.

We accept that not every activity will capture children and parents' imagination and that weekends can sometimes be busy. We believe that homework should be enjoyable and manageable for all concerned and that if it becomes a chore/burden/source of conflict it ceases to be a constructive aspect of teaching and learning.

We do not specify amounts of time that must be spent on a project task, preferring individual children and families to set their own limits. We hope the children are motivated by positive incentives and by the tasks themselves; children are not punished if they fail to complete the work. However discreet homework registers are kept and if a child consistently fails to complete and return tasks, this is discussed with the child and their parents.

What is the purpose of Homework?

- It can inform parents about work going on in class;
- It can further stimulate enthusiasm for learning;
- It takes advantage of the home environment and resources and the chance for some one-to-one adult time;
- It can be a great source for gathering topic information to share with all the children;
- It is a great opportunity to rehearse key skills such as times tables, doubling facts, addition sums, spellings, handwriting and other key facts;
- It helps to foster good habits of organization and self-discipline in preparation for the demands of Secondary School (especially for children in Year 6).

Termly Topic Homework

Each term, your child will be given a choice of three topic-related tasks, linked to their current learning in class. These three options will allow your child to explore areas of interest to them, be it through a creative and artistic project, a written document or a scientific experiment. These projects are designed to enable pupils to deepen their understanding of a topic and to explore and enjoy learning in a variety of ways.

Parents and carers are encouraged to work with their children on these topics. The activities can provide times to talk and discuss what is happening in school. It is also a valuable opportunity to ensure pupils are using the correct and age appropriate language. Don't 'dumb down' subject specific terms, but embrace them and be sure to discuss meanings.

Weekly Homework Guide

Below is a guide to expectations across the school.

	English	Maths
Reception	10 minutes word work (common site words & Phonics at least 3 times a week) Share stories/read together daily	Practise counting and play counting games and rhymes, discuss shapes in the environment.
Year 1	10 minutes word/phonics work 3 x per week 10 minutes reading 3 x per week	As above. Plus, children can start to learn their 2, 5 and 10 times tables and practise these using TTRockstars (which all pupils have a log in for).
Year 2	10 minutes spelling work 3 x per week 15 minutes reading 3 x per week	By year 2, all children need to learn their 2x, 5x and 10x tables fluently. Weekly practice at home will be required.
Year 3	10 minutes spelling work 3 x per week (a set of spellings from Spelling Shed will be set weekly and tested in class). 15 minutes reading 3 x per week	By year 3, all children need to continue to practise their 2x, 5x and 10x tables but to also learn their 3x, 4x, 6x, 7x, 8x and 9x tables. Weekly practice at home will be required. A weekly set of times tables will be set and can be practised on TTRockstars. Children will be tested on these in class.
Year 4	15 minutes spelling work 3 x per week (a set of spellings from Spelling Shed will be set weekly and tested in class). 20 minutes reading 3 x per week	By year 4, all children need to consolidate their times tables and improve the speed of their recall and learn what the corresponding division facts are. For example, $7 \times 6 = 42$. Also $42 = 7 \times 6$. Weekly practice at home will be required. A weekly set of times tables will be set and can be practised on TTRockstars. Children will be tested on these in class.
Year 5	15 minutes spelling & grammar work 3 x per week (a set of spellings from Spelling Shed will be set weekly and tested in class). 20 minutes reading 3 x per week	By year 5, all children need to have quick recall of their times tables and corresponding division facts are. Weekly practice at home will be required. A weekly task of times tables to practise will be set on TTRockstars. Children will be tested on these in class.

<p>Year 6</p>	<p>15 minutes spelling & grammar work 3 x per week (a set of spellings from Spelling Shed will be set weekly and tested in class). 20 minutes reading 3 x per week Booster club homework will be set weekly to consolidate knowledge and understanding of key skills in preparation for Yr 6 SATS tests. This will be either focused on English OR Maths each week.</p>	<p>As above for year 5. In addition, weekly times tables tasks to consolidate times tables will be set on TTRockstars.</p>
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Pupils have weekly times tables and spelling tests.

It is vital that your child **reads at least 3 times a week to an adult**. Children who do so will be rewarded with Class Dojo points. Children who read consistently to an adult at home throughout the term, will receive a certificate in class.

Additional Learning

Some parents have requested more homework for their children. Class teachers are able to provide advice on extra work you wish to set your children, but they will not be able to give you resources or mark any work produced.

Spelling Shed and Times Table Rockstars can be used to provide additional homework tasks.

You can purchase age-appropriate materials online and from stores such as WH Smiths should you wish to. *CGP* are used in school and recommended as being good examples.

Examples of CGP books



Teachers will also provide parents with useful websites for activities or research for their termly topic-based task, as part of their termly newsletter.

Furthermore, there is a Learning Links page on our school website (which can be accessed by selecting 'pupils' on the tool bar)

Further Homework ideas for younger children:

We really value the input you have with supporting your child's learning at home. We hope you find the ideas below helpful in supporting your child.

Reading

It is important to listen to your child read **three times a week at least**. This will help them to become more confident in reading and help with their fluency as well. Any books are great to read so please do not just limit it to the books that we provide your child with. Encourage your child to look at other books you may have at home. Can they retell the story using the pictures? Can they spot phonemes and graphemes they have been learning in class?

Reading to your child is just as important. Enjoy books at any time of the day where you can:

- discuss your favourite characters
- talk about the events of the book
- discuss your favourite parts
- discuss vocabulary

All of this is important in building your children's confidence across the curriculum.

Remember Book Bingo as well.

Other possible ideas:

- I spy games, beginning with the sounds your child has been taught that week
- Choosing five tricky words or phonemes or digraphs to learn each week. Write on a post it note and leave in different places around the house. Can your child read them as they pass them?
- Finding objects around the house linked to the different sounds your child has been taught that week
- Playing bingo. Draw a 3 x 2 grid on a piece of paper. Write a tricky word in each box. As you read a word can they locate it on their board and tick off?

Spelling:

In years 1 and 2, you will have been provided with the common exception word list. These are words which are not able to be spelt through phonics. We will be practising these in class but any extra reinforcement at home, is always a huge benefit.

- Stick post it notes of five chosen words around the house. Ask your child to locate the word and then write it down without looking. They can check to see if they are correct or look at the part they have written wrong.
- Write each letter of the word in a different colour.
- Look, cover, check strategy.
- Find the tricky part of the word and write this in a different colour.

- Spelling frame is a good online game.
- Build the words from magnetic letters.
- Spell and roll – each number of a die relates to a different word. Children roll a dice and write the word according to the number on the die, e.g. 4 = find.
- Draw the word as a picture, for example:



Counting and Times tables (for year 1 and 2)

It is important that all children in Years 1 and 2 are confident in counting forwards and backwards to 100, from any given number.

These could be practical games such as asking children to write the next 5 numbers down from a given number, counting when going up and down the stairs, drawing number lines outside in chalk, counting how many toy cars/ animals they have.

There are also online games that you can play:

Topmark Maths has a wealth of games on sequencing and ordering.

Shut the box.

By the end of Year 4 all children are expected to know **ALL** times tables, including division facts. As a school, we have split the times tables to be learnt within each year group

Possible activities to help with learning times tables:

- Times tables rock stars – all children have a log in
- Hit the button – a Topmarks maths game online which allows you to decide the times table to focus
- Bingo – create a 3x4 grid. Write an answer for a times table in each square. Call out the number and if your child has it on their board, they can cross it off.

This would be good to practise with other children in our family in a different year group so that the children are really having to listen out for their particular times table.

- Reciting the times table anywhere you are, e.g walking to school, in the bath, on a car journey
- You can buy times tables CDs with catchy songs to help learn the tables.

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