



Dear Parents / Carers

Homework at St Mary's

We have updated our Homework Policy as we believe homework is an important part of the learning process for our children. We are very excited to share our new expectations below.

Compulsory Homework

Reading

Reading underpins the homework policy as we believe that reading is fundamental to functioning in today's society - it develops our children's imaginations and expands their understanding of the world. All children will start reading wordless books in Reception and then progress onto the school-reading scheme. When children have passed the benchmarking for 'Black' books, they will become a free reader. Reading books are also available on our online reading programme 'Bug Club' (Year R – Year 6) and books will be updated when required.

Year Group Expectations: Year R Yellow, Year 1 Orange, Year 2 Gold, Year 3 onwards Free Reader

A Reading Record book will be taken home every day. We expect children to read at home to an adult at least 5 times a week. This needs to be recorded and signed by the adult in the child's reading record book. We welcome parental comments about the reading they have heard. Children who read at home 5 or more times a week will be rewarded with their name on the 'Reading Challenge', which can lead to a prize.

All children in Year 2 – 6 will be provided with CGP reading workbooks to help develop their comprehension skills. Each week, children are expected to read one text in the book and to answer the questions about that text. The children should work through the texts in the order they are presented in the book. Children are to bring these workbooks in with their Reading Records every Tuesday to be checked. Please note all children in Year 2 will receive their CGP books after half term. This allows them time to settle into the new academic year.

Times Tables

Children are expected to consolidate their understanding of the times tables through use of games and regular recall at home. Children have access to the online programme, 'Times Table Rockstars' where they will be individually set times tables according to the progress they have made in school. At the end of each week, the top three users (The Rock Heroes) will be celebrated in school.

Spellings

Children will no longer be sent home with weekly spelling lists. At the beginning of the year, the children will be given a list of all of the words in the National End of Year Expectations for their year group. The children may not be tested on all of these words, but they will be expected to show their ability to spell the words when completing written tasks. These words should be practised when possible. At the end of each term, all children will be assessed against their year group's spelling expectations.

Optional Self-Directed Homework tasks

- Mathematics (online maths programme) which pupils can access from home using their personal logins.
- Purple Mash (online curriculum programme) which pupils can access from home using their personal logins.
- Letter Join (online handwriting programme) which pupils can access using our school logins (username: hart password: road).



- Bug Club (online reading programme) which pupils can access using their personal logins to practise their reading and comprehension skills.

As these online subscriptions are a cost to the school, we will be monitoring their use. If they are not being utilised, we will not be able to renew these programmes.

Website

In order to support our children's development with their English and Maths skills, additional tasks, games and online activity links are available on the school website.

Parent Planners are found on the website and provide information as to what the children are learning in school. Children are encouraged to carry out additional learning and research at home in order to support their work in school. Extra learning at home may be rewarded with a 'gold' in school.

Reception & Year 1

During home visits, prior to starting in Reception, children will be given letter and number cards to support their learning. Once the children start Reception, and start to learn new sounds, they will be given optional phonics homework in the form of phonics ten-minute weekly workout books to support learning these sounds at home. At the end of each half term, any completed work will be celebrated in school.

Year 2 & Year 6

In order to prepare the children for their SATS, revision materials may be sent home when teachers feel it is appropriate. Revision material will not be marked by the teacher but we encourage parents to discuss the work with their children.

Extra Information

- On occasion, the children will be set optional tasks linked to a curriculum day / focus. This will be communicated to parents.
- It is an expectation that children will continue to read for pleasure and practise times tables during the holidays.
- Learning is not restricted to the classroom and we actively encourage our children to be creative and extend their learning at home and follow their own lines of enquiry. If your child is fascinated by a topic and would like to bring in projects from home, they are very welcome to do so.

CGP books will be given out to children on Tuesday 24 September and we expect to see these every Tuesday (along with the Reading Records) to be checked.

If you have any concerns about the homework your child is receiving, or you are unsure about how best you can support your child's learning, the first point of contact must always be the class teacher.

Thank you for your continued support

Kind regards

Miss Booth

Mrs Merrick

Mrs Severn