



Hook Norton C. of E. Primary School

Homework: A Guide for Parents

The Purpose of Homework

- To develop an effective partnership between school and parents in pursuing the aims of the school.
- To consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding, particularly in literacy and numeracy.
- To make the most of resources for learning at home.
- To extend school learning, for example through additional reading.
- To encourage children as they get older to develop the confidence and self-discipline needed to study on their own, and prepare them for the requirements of secondary school.

The type and amount of homework which is appropriate for different age groups

- The main focus for homework for children at primary school is expected to be literacy and numeracy. Other subjects will be added to the programme as children move up the school, without losing the focus on literacy and numeracy.
- Homework is more than formal exercises carried out without the help from adults. Particularly in the case of younger children, it is the involvement of parents in joint activities, which can be very brief, which is most valuable for promoting learning.
- Regular reading is vital. For children in Key Stage One, homework should largely consist of regular reading with parents, looking at books together. Reading practice and listening to others read then continues to be essential right through primary school.
- All primary school children should read to their parents, listen to them reading, or, if they are fluent readers, read on their own for at least 10 to 20 minutes a day.
- Other literacy homework may include: learning spellings and practising punctuation.
- Numeracy homework may include number games and tasks, times tables, more formal exercises for older children and investigations.
- In addition to these regular activities, older children will be given other kinds of homework which may include: finding out information, reading in preparation for a lesson, preparing oral presentations, more traditional written assignments.
- There may be occasions when homework is specific to your child – to help him/her consolidate learning in class, for example.
- We expect all homework to be completed and handed in on time: this is particularly important when it involves preparatory work for class.

Time allocation for homework

Year 1	Average 10 minutes per day + reading	Reading, spellings, other literacy and number work.
Year 2	Average 10 minutes per day + reading	Reading, spellings, other literacy and number work.
Year 3	Average 15 minutes per day	Reading, spellings, number work as in Y1/2 and with occasional assignments in other subjects.
Year 4	Average 20 minutes per day	Reading, spellings, number work as in Y1/2 and with occasional assignments in other subjects.
Year 5	Average 25 minutes per day	Reading, spellings, continued emphasis on literacy and numeracy but also ranging widely over the curriculum.
Year 6	Average 30 minutes per day	Reading, spellings, continued emphasis on literacy and numeracy but also ranging widely over the curriculum.

The daily reading which the government recommends for all children is part of the homework. On days when the homework activity is something other than reading, children should be encouraged to read on their own or with others for at least 10 minutes (20 minutes for older children).

Ideas for stress free, successful homework

- Provide a peaceful, suitable place for your child to do homework alone, or with younger children, together with an adult.
- Reinforce the value of homework and how it can help with children's learning.
- Encourage and praise when homework has been completed.
- Be actively involved in joint homework activities, especially with younger children.
- Ensure that homework is completed and returned to school on time.

Each class has their own pattern for homework. The homework arrangements are given out at the beginning of each year at the parent/teacher meeting in September.

If your child is struggling to complete the homework in a reasonable amount of time (bearing in mind the guidelines above) or is unable to complete the homework independently, when this has been the expectation, please talk to the class teacher.