



**Parents' Handbook: Homework**

**Pre Prep**

There is no formal written homework in the Pre-Prep, although children are expected to read every day and learn by heart spelling lists and multiplication tables.

In Nursery and Reception the children learn phonic 'sounds' and sight words (the words most commonly found in reading books to which no spelling rule applies.) They also begin to read sentences. It is helpful if you can support the school's reading approach here - a session is usually held each Autumn for parents but further assistance is always available from class teachers.

By the time they reach Year 1 children are becoming increasingly fluent readers and should read for a quarter of an hour each night. Again your child's teacher will be more specific about how you can help.

Spelling lists and the learning of multiplication tables will be introduced when it is considered that the children are ready. Spellings are set one week and are tested on the same day the following week.

**Prep**

Each child has a Homework Diary in which homework is written down to remind your child of what has been set and to keep parents informed.

The aims of homework are to:

- to consolidate work covered in lessons
- to improve basic skills and encourage the use of books
- to develop the routine and working habits involved in completing homework as required
- to set work that extends the children without creating stress at the end of a working day
- to develop responsible attitudes to self management, organisation and self discipline
- to encourage independent study
- to provide children with appropriate help and encouragement whilst allowing them to do the work for themselves

**Guidelines for parents:**

- Homework is an important means of reinforcing work studied at school
- It should encourage self-discipline
- It should be done independently. Any difficulties experienced should be recorded in the Homework Diary so that teachers know what has been misunderstood; then can then give effective help
- Parents are expected to check that work has been done. Reliable help can be given, by parents, with the basic skills such as reading, spelling and multiplication tables.

If you find that your child cannot complete their homework **calmly** in the time allocated, please do contact their teacher. We are trying to establish good habits for later on and children shouldn't become anxious.

Nursery and Reception	Reading
Year One	Reading and spellings
Year Two	Reading, spellings and tables
Year Three	30 minutes two or three times a week

Year Four	30 minutes three times a week
Year Five	30 minutes four times a week
Year Six	30-40 minutes four times a week

**There is no homework at the weekend - family time and other interests are important too. Rest assured that your child will have worked hard all week and needs time off!**