



Mytham Primary School

Homework Policy for Families

The Importance of Homework – Our Rationale and Aims

Home work is an important part of building positive learning habits, as well as consolidating and extending learning that has taken place within school.

Parents and carers play an important role in supporting and encouraging all of our pupils to engage with home learning tasks that have been provided and advised by school.

We believe that high levels of engagement with home learning leads to children remembering more, perfecting new skills, deepening knowledge further and ultimately helps to improve educational outcomes for all children.

Homework Expectations

Year Group	Home Learning Expectations
Nursery Classes	Nursery children should experience shared stories at home every week. Singing lots of nursery rhymes is also very beneficial. You can borrow a wide variety of books from your child's nursery class. 
Reception Classes	-Reception children should read at least 4 times per week. This can be a mixture of the Little Wandle phonics scheme/ banded reading books and also 'reading for pleasure' books called 'Snuggle Books'. -1 x phonics homework per week

	-Your child may also receive some simple writing homework tasks later in the academic year. This is the help to embed those basic writing skills for independent writing in Year One. Each class will have a set day for changing home reading books – contact your class team to find out more. All other homework will be sent out on Fridays and must be returned by the following Friday. 
KS1 (Year 1 & 2)	-KS1 children should read at least 4 times per week. This can be a mixture of the Little Wandle phonics scheme/ banded reading books and also ‘reading for pleasure’ books from home or from school. -The second piece of homework will alternate each week. This piece of homework will be either a maths OR a reading comprehension activity / phonics activity activity. Each class will have a set day for changing home reading books – contact your class team to find out more. All other homework will be sent out on Fridays and must be returned by the following Friday. 
LKS2 (Year 3 & 4)	-LKS2 children should read at least 4 times per week. This can be a mixture of the Little Wandle phonics scheme/ banded reading books and also ‘reading for pleasure’ books from home or from school. -The second piece of homework will alternate each week. This piece of homework will be either a maths OR a reading comprehension activity / phonics activity activity. All other homework will be sent out on Fridays and must be returned by the following Friday.

	
Year 5	-Y5 children should read at least 4 times per week. This can be a mixture of the scheme/ banded reading books and also ‘reading for pleasure’ books from home or from school. Children in Y5 may now be an accomplished reader; meaning they are a ‘free reader’ and can independently choose books from a wide selection to take home. -The second piece of homework will alternate each week. This piece of homework will be either a reading comprehension activity OR a maths activity. All other homework will be sent out on Fridays and must be returned by the following Friday. 
Year 6	-Y6 children should read at least 4 times per week. There are a wide variety of books to choose from in our UKS2 library area. The vast majority of Y6 pupils will be accomplished readers and are encouraged to read widely. -The second piece of homework will alternate weekly and may include maths, a grammar activity or a reading comprehension activity. -As the year progresses, or when required, Y6 will also be expected to participate in revision ahead of the statutory end of year SATS. All other homework will be sent out on Fridays and must be returned by the following Friday. 

FAMILY HOMEWORK PROJECTS

Once per term school will send out a homework project. It is based upon a whole school priority or event, such as 'Remembrance Day' or 'Rights of the Child'. Please encourage your child to complete this. You may wish to complete this as a whole family; brothers, sisters & grandparents can all join in to make this an enjoyable project. All projects are showcased within classrooms. Some are even selected for main display areas around school! We have open mornings to share pupil's projects with the whole school community. It's an opportunity for our children to be creative. We have seen great examples of art, sewing, model making, writing and more during past projects. You can spend 30 minutes – 1hr to complete this, or complete it over the course of one or two weeks...the choice is yours!



The Importance of Home Reading

Reading is the most important homework that your child can complete. It underpins all other learning.
This should be prioritised by all families.

*"Making sure that children become engaged with reading from the beginning is ...
one of the most important ways to make a difference to their life chances."
(The Reading Framework)*



Getting the most out of reading with your child

- Set aside between 5 to 20 minutes at least 4 times per week (dependent upon the age of your child). Protect this time as much as you can to ensure it is quality time, devoted to reading.
- It is important that children hear adults read in addition to children reading themselves. This helps children to learn new vocabulary, focus on story plot and characters and listen to good examples of 'fluent' reading.
- Listen carefully; even if your child is an older child in KS2. You could ask your child to read aloud to see if they are reading accurately and fluently. Taking a few minutes to stop chores or perusing your phone to pay full attention to reading gives out the message that you value reading and enjoy reading.
- Give your child time to correct their mistakes when reading before stepping in. Self-correction is an important skill.
- Model reading sentences then ask your child to repeat them. This can teach them about ways to read sentences to make them interesting to listen to.
- Reading scheme books/ banded books have a wealth of guidance on the inside cover. Take note of tricky words, words your child may not understand or phonics sounds they need to know. Going through this first is extremely valuable and gives children a head start when they turn the first page. Set your child up to succeed!
- Re-read books! This is especially important for reading scheme/ banded books, where children are still perfecting their reading skills. Children must be fluent readers before they can read for meaning.
- Ask your child questions about the books. Explore character attitudes and feelings, what may happen next in a book, what has just happened in a book and share personal opinions on the story.
- Try non-fiction or even comics. We all have preferences, and it is about trying a wide range of texts to find the ones that we really love.

Don't Forget....

Every year group from nursery through to Y6 have a list of 'Unmissables'. These are recommended reads. The list is in the front or back cover of your child's reading diary.

You can borrow these books from school or the library...or even purchase a copy to keep! Tick them off as you read them.



Optional & Additional Homework

Staff at Mytham understand that families can have very differing views on home work and home learning. Some families may wish to do more than the homework expectations. Below are ideas of additional homework that can be completed to support your child's learning.

TIMETABLES ROCKSTARS

Timetable Rock Stars can be used by all pupils Y2 upwards to help them improve their timetables and basic maths skills. Your child should have their log in details to share with their grown-ups at home. Please speak to your child's class teacher if you have any questions regarding this.



PURPLE MASH

Purple Mash offers access to a variety of activities that support learning across the whole curriculum. Children should have log in details to share with their grown-ups at home. This applies to children in Reception – Y6.



BBC BITESIZE

BBC Bitesize has a wide variety of activities for Reception, KS1 and KS2 pupils, covering a broad range of subjects. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/primary>

Primary Levels

Ages 3 to 11



I go to school in...

I am in...

Early years >

KS1 >

KS2 >

DAYS OUT & PLACES TO VISIT

Some of the most valuable types of home learning that can take place are often the things that we would struggle to replicate on a regular basis in school. Spending quality time as a family, taking part in activities and enjoying days out can also be valuable learning experiences. This may include:

Zoos, farms & Aquariums



Forest schools, local walks
~ outdoor activities

Joining clubs & sports teams



Gardening & helping to
maintain an allotment

Baking and cooking



Hobbies e.g. horse
riding, swimming or
fishing.

Museums & Galleries

Places of historical
significance



Supporting Children who are Falling Behind with Learning

In school we offer a wide range of support and strategies to support all pupils who may be falling behind with their learning. We want to work with families in supporting your children. Occasionally, additional activities may be sent home to specific families where school feels that this is needed, and would improve educational outcomes for your child.

For example, if your child is falling behind in phonics and struggling with a specific aspect, the class teacher may send home a phonics flash card pack so you are able to play phonics games at home. In Reception class and nursery class we have pupils who find developing their fine motor skills a challenge. In these instances class teachers may send home a 'fine motor activity pack' so that you can support your child at home. **We only send home these additional activities in specific circumstances, and at the class teacher or SENDCO's discretion.** They are optional, although parental support is always very much appreciated by school. There is no deadline for this work to be completed. It is part of our 'targeted support' for specific pupils.

Homework Q & A For Parents & Carers

Q: How do I communicate how home reading is going with school?



A: Your child's home reading record should be completed 4 times per week to show what your child has been reading at home. As a minimum we ask parents/carers to date and sign the diary. It is useful to teachers if you can add a brief additional comment about what your child did well or any 'tricky' words or phonics sounds that your child was unsure about.

Q: When is my child's book changed?

A: Home reading books are changed once per week in KS1 & Reception class. This enables all pupils to have time to re-read books and perfect their reading fluency, or take their time to digest longer chapter books for older pupils. The day of the week books are changed may vary from class to class. This is because each class have a bespoke timetable to meet pupil needs. You can ask your child's class teacher for more information. As children move into KS2 and become accomplished readers, children have more ownership over their reading. Children can change their books throughout the week.

Q: Why has my child returned home with the same book?

A: Your child will be offered a new home reading book when they are able to demonstrate to a member of the class team that they are confident at reading that particular book. Some children need more time to achieve this.

Q: My child finds their book too easy. Why can't they have a more difficult book?

A: We aim to set children up to succeed. It is best practice that children feel confident as they approach a book. If children are faced with too many words or phonics sounds that they do not know, reading becomes very challenging or frustrating. In some cases, it leads to children disliking reading as a consequence. For children still taking part in phonics learning (KS1 pupils and a smaller number of KS2 pupils), books will be matched to their phonics abilities.

Q: What happens when my child does not read 4 times per week?

A: Your child's teacher and teaching assistant track the number of reads for each child, each and every week. When your child's reading record does not show 4 reads for that week, a text message will be sent home as a polite reminder to families. We know that some families may have circumstances whereby this may not be possible some weeks; possibly due to emergency circumstances. Please write a note in the home diary; class teams will endeavour to read all comments.

Q: What support does my child get in school with reading?

A: We read in school every single day. This includes a mixture of whole class novel/ short story reading, small group guided reading and 1:1 reading. If a teacher has praise to share, or concerns, they may record a message in your child's reading record (please check it regularly for updates).

Q: Does a grown-up reading a favourite book to their child, at home, count towards the 4 reads?

A: If your child is in Early Years (nursery or Reception), or KS1, it **does** count towards their reads. This is because we want our younger pupils to hear adults reading very regularly. We would however, still expect your child to be reading themselves on a number of occasions throughout the week in Reception class & beyond.

Q: My child keeps forgetting to bring their reading book home/ forgetting to hand it in to be changed. What should I do?

A: We remind all pupils to hand their books in or take them home every single day. In KS2 we expect pupils to begin doing this with independence (we continue to give verbal reminders each day), and staff will not look through children's trays or bags to check. Please encourage your child to be proactive. This could include reminding them at drop-off times. Children can read an alternative book from home if they have forgotten their book. This can be recorded in their reading record towards the 4 reads per week.

Q: My child has lost or damaged their book. What will happen?

A: School will send home a 'damaged book' invoice to parents/ carers. This is to cover the cost of the book being replaced. The invoice should be paid within 7 days so that a new replacement book can be sent home the following week. We understand some children live in blended families, but it is the responsibility of the family to establish who will take responsibility for the payment of the invoice. School cannot get involved with this dispute.

Q: My child's reading record is full/ has been misplaced. What will happen?

A: Class teams check records regularly and can replace these when needed.

Q: My child has not completed their homework (reading comprehension or maths activity). What will happen?

A: School strongly encourages all children to complete their homework at home. Your child may be asked why they have not completed their homework by the class teacher to try and establish if school can support your family with this. Families can choose to 'catch up' at a later date where this is possible, or simply endeavour to try to ensure it is completed on time the following week. Children who complete their homework will be reward via whole school reward systems, such as Dojo.

Q: How will I know homework has been checked by the teacher?

A: Teachers will mark all homework that is completed by the date it is due to be handed in. If homework is late, it will not be marked. In Reception class, families should upload their child's homework to Tapestry – this enables teachers to comment and offer next steps. On occasions where a number of pupils in one class have got certain questions wrong, the teachers will address this during lesson time to help address these common misconceptions.

Q What do I do if my child finds their homework too hard or too easy?

A: Teachers take a considerable amount of time to select the homework materials for pupils. We endeavour to set homework that is well pitched to pupil needs. If you have any concerns, please request a conversation with your child's class teacher.

Q: My child does not have the same homework as some of their friends. Why is this?

A: In some cases the same homework is not suitable for all pupils. Teachers will select homework that meets the learning needs of all pupils, and this can mean adapting or sending different homework.

Q: My child has lost their homework. What should I do?

A: In some cases it is simple for school to provide another copy of the homework activity. This may not be the case if your child's homework is a booklet from an external provider. School may need to pay to

replace this, and would require a contribution to help school cover the cost of damaged or lost booklets. Following discussion with school governors, booklets are provided free of cost to parents, but families will incur a charge if these are lost.

All learning opportunities, including home learning, are extremely valuable and can open doors to endless possibilities for our children. With your support, we want to see all of our pupils growing and achieving.

