

How to help your child complete their homework

A guide for parents.

What are the benefits of my child completing their homework?

At Great Leighs Primary School homework, in some form, is set to children throughout the school so that they can practise their skills and share their learning with you at home. Homework is an opportunity for you to be involved in supporting your child's progress and it is apparent that children who regularly complete their homework do tend to make better progress with their learning – particularly reading. As a school we value being in partnership with you and your child to help them to achieve their full potential.

Completing homework tasks are ideal opportunities for children to practise what they have been learning in school and tasks will often be set around this. For example, a Year 3 child who is beginning to master writing more complex sentences may love to work on writing a story with an adult using their new punctuation skills.

It is also a chance for children to develop their learning further and use and apply the key skills that they have been taught in lessons. For example, a Year 4 child may be asked to solve some problems involving money. This is an opportunity for the child to practise using their 'four rules of number' calculation skills and their skills of working with simple decimal numbers.

As children get older and move through Key Stage Two, completing homework is an opportunity them to develop their independence and organisational skills. By Year 5 we would like children to begin to manage, with your support, the increasing number of tasks they are set and, by Year 6, to be able to use a home-learning timetable independently in preparation for their transition to Secondary School.

Is reading with my child important?

Reading with your child on a daily basis is incredibly important. Children who read many different types of text develop good general knowledge, strong imagination and a sense of creativity. This will enable them to become more successful in their writing and in other areas of their learning. Young children develop a broader vocabulary if they listen to stories (and information books) which they are not yet able to read for themselves, so reading to your child is as important as listening to them read.

We believe, therefore, that reading with your child, or hearing your child read to you, should be part of a daily routine. Bedtimes are ideal times to share a story or listen to your child read their favourite book. Talking about the story, the characters and getting your child to think about what might happen next in the story are important ways to help them develop their understanding of story structures and develop their thinking and reasoning skills. Boys often prefer non-fiction (information texts) which link to their interests and these can be shared and enjoyed together as easily as stories.

We are a busy family. How do we manage the amount of homework my child is set?

As a school we value and listen to your thoughts and opinions. We recently carried out a survey about homework and we recognise that many parents work longer hours than ever before and that family time is precious. As a staff we have therefore reviewed the amount of homework that is being set in

each Year group with a recommended amount of time to be spent on the activities. This should help parents and carers more easily plan homework into their schedules and this is outlined below:

Key Stage One Homework Tasks We expect that children in FS and KS1 will read every day at home, and this is the priority activity. We suggest that your child reads to you for about 5-10 minutes and then you read (a more difficult book) for at least another 10 minutes. Additional tasks are set once a week as outlined below and, by Year 2, are structured more formally. **Foundation Stage:** The home-learning book contains one literacy and one maths task each week. These are linked to what the children have been learning (or will be learning the following week). Activities are short and practical and designed to be fun. Children may also have a Creative Writing book for any independent writing of their choice.

Year 1: Children are given a maths task linked to the week's learning or to the mental maths cards to practise essential basic skills. They are asked to practise their phonics and tricky words (using the phonics cards where necessary). The children have an optional Creative Writing book for independent writing of their choice.

Year 2: ☐ Maths: Activity linked to the learning or to the mental maths cards. ☐ Spellings linked to the week's phonics learning (6 words to be learned and put into sentences) ☐ Topic: a short task ☐ Creative writing (optional) As an indication, the set homework should average out at about 10 minutes per day.

Key Stage Two Homework

Homework Guidelines per Year Group set weekly			
(All homework set will be set at the individual ability level of the child)			
Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
<p><i>Maths-15 minutes</i> A task to encourage practising key skills. It may be a mental maths task, a written task or a task on My Maths. (a written task may alternate weekly with an on-line My maths task)</p>	<p><i>Maths 20 minutes</i> A task to consolidate and practise key skills. It may be a mental maths task, a written task or a task on My Maths. (a written task may alternate weekly with an on-line My maths task)</p>	<p><i>Maths 30 minutes</i> A task to consolidate and use and apply key skills. It may be a mental maths task, a written task or a task on My Maths. (a written task may alternate weekly with an on-line My maths task)</p>	<p><i>Maths 45 minutes</i> A task to consolidate and use and apply key skills. It may be a written SATs Style activity or a My Maths activity. (a written task may alternate weekly with an on-line My maths task)</p>
<p><i>Literacy-15 minutes</i> A basic task which could be writing a story, practising grammar and punctuation skills or answering questions about a text. This work may also be based on a Topic that the children are learning about in another area of the curriculum.</p>	<p><i>Literacy 20 minutes</i> A basic task which could be writing a story, practising grammar and punctuation skills or answering questions about a text. This work may also be based on a Topic that the children are learning about in another area of the curriculum.</p>	<p><i>Literacy 30 minutes</i> A task which could be writing a story, practising grammar and punctuation skills or answering questions about text. This work may also be based on a Topic that the children are learning about in another area of the curriculum. Children may be asked to complete a project over a period of time.</p>	<p><i>Literacy 45 minutes</i> A task which could be writing a story, practising grammar and punctuation skills or answering questions about text. This work may also be based on a Topic that the children are learning about in another area of the curriculum. Children may be asked to complete a project over a period of time.</p>
<p><i>Spellings</i> Children will be asked to learn up to ten spellings per week. These will also be practised in class and should be practised at least once per week at home.</p>	<p><i>Spellings</i> Children will be asked to learn up to ten spellings per week. These will also be practised in class and should be practised at least once per week at home.</p>	<p><i>Spellings</i> Children will be asked to learn up to ten spellings per week. These will also be practised in class and should be practised at least twice per week at home.</p>	<p><i>Spellings</i> Children will be asked to learn up to ten spellings per week. These will also be practised in class and should be practised at least twice per week at home.</p>
<p><i>Daily Reading</i> (to an adult) of at least fifteen minutes.</p>	<p><i>Daily Reading</i> (to an adult) of at least fifteen minutes.</p>	<p><i>Daily Reading</i> (to an adult) of at least fifteen minutes.</p>	<p><i>Daily Reading</i> (to an adult) of at least fifteen minutes.</p>

We hope that you find this a useful guide and that it will help you build your child's homework into your daily routines. If you need any help or advice with supporting your child to complete the homework then please talk to your child's class teacher who will be only too happy to listen to your concerns and offer ideas wherever possible.