



HOMEWORK GUIDE

How to help your child complete their homework

HOMEWORK AT GREAT LEIGHS

- Homework gives pupils purposeful opportunities to practise key skills and share their learning at home.
- Reading is the priority home-learning activity because regular reading supports vocabulary, knowledge, imagination and achievement across the curriculum.
- Tasks should consolidate learning, encourage independence and remain manageable within family routines.
- Please speak to your child's class teacher if you need advice or support.

Why is homework valuable?

Homework helps children revisit what they have learned in school and apply it in a different context. A child might practise punctuation through a short story, use calculation strategies to solve a money problem, rehearse phonics or spellings, or complete research connected to a curriculum topic.

As pupils move through Key Stage 2, homework also develops independence and organisation. By Year 5, pupils should begin to manage an increasing range of tasks with adult support. By Year 6, they should increasingly use a simple home-learning timetable independently in preparation for secondary school.

Reading together

Reading with your child every day is especially valuable. Listening to your child read supports fluency and understanding; reading aloud to them introduces vocabulary and ideas beyond the books they can yet read independently.

- Choose stories, poetry, information books, magazines and other texts that interest your child.
- Talk about characters, information and vocabulary.
- Ask what has happened, why it happened and what might happen next.
- Let your child see adults reading for pleasure and information.

MAKING HOMEWORK MANAGEABLE

A practical guide for families

Family time is precious. The guidance below is intended to help families establish predictable routines while keeping reading at the centre. Tasks should be appropriate to each pupil's needs and linked to learning in school.

A SIMPLE WEEKLY ROUTINE

- Agree a regular time and a quiet place for homework.
- Break longer tasks into short, manageable steps.
- Encourage your child to explain what they are learning before offering help.
- Praise effort, accuracy, perseverance and growing independence.
- Stop and contact the class teacher if a task is causing persistent difficulty or anxiety.

EYFS	YEAR 1	YEAR 2
<p>Daily priority Share books and talk about stories and information.</p> <p>Weekly learning One short literacy activity and one short mathematics activity linked to current or upcoming learning.</p> <p>Activities should be practical and enjoyable. Children may also choose independent writing.</p>	<p>Daily priority Reading and sharing books.</p> <p>Weekly learning A mathematics activity linked to current learning or essential number skills.</p> <p>Practise phonics and tricky words. Independent creative writing is optional.</p>	<p>Daily priority Reading and discussing texts.</p> <p>Weekly learning A mathematics activity; spellings linked to phonics or spelling learning; and a short curriculum task where appropriate.</p> <p>The set work should average approximately 10 minutes per day.</p>

Suggested daily reading

In EYFS and Key Stage 1, aim for a short period in which your child reads to an adult, followed by time listening to a more challenging book read aloud. Keep the experience positive and adapt the length to your child's age, concentration and needs.

KEY STAGE 2 HOMEWORK

Weekly guidance • Years 3 and 4

Homework is set at an appropriate level for each pupil. The times shown are guides for the principal mathematics and English tasks, not targets that require a child to continue when a task has become unproductive.

YEAR 3

Mathematics

Approximately 15 minutes. Practise and consolidate key skills through a mental, written or online activity.

English

Approximately 15 minutes. This may include a short writing task, grammar and punctuation practice, reading comprehension or work linked to another curriculum subject.

Spellings and reading

Learn up to ten spellings, also practised in class. Read to an adult for at least 15 minutes each day.

YEAR 4

Mathematics

Approximately 20 minutes. Consolidate key skills through a mental, written or online activity.

English

Approximately 20 minutes. This may include writing, grammar and punctuation, comprehension or work linked to another curriculum subject.

Spellings and reading

Learn up to ten spellings, also practised in class. Read to an adult for at least 15 minutes each day.

SUPPORTING INDEPENDENCE

- Ask your child to identify the first step and the resources they need.
- Encourage checking and editing rather than correcting the work for them.
- Use the class teacher's guidance when methods differ from those adults learned at school.

KEY STAGE 2 HOMEWORK

Weekly guidance • Years 5 and 6

YEAR 5

Mathematics

Approximately 30 minutes. Consolidate, use and apply key skills through a mental, written or online activity.

English

Approximately 30 minutes. This may include writing, grammar and punctuation, comprehension, curriculum-linked work or a project completed over time.

Spellings and reading

Learn up to ten spellings and practise them at least twice at home. Read for at least 15 minutes each day and discuss increasingly challenging texts.

YEAR 6

Mathematics

Approximately 45 minutes. Consolidate, use and apply key skills through written, online or assessment-style activities where appropriate.

English

Approximately 45 minutes. This may include writing, grammar and punctuation, comprehension, curriculum-linked work or a project completed over time.

Spellings and reading

Learn up to ten spellings and practise them at least twice at home. Read for at least 15 minutes each day, developing independence and thoughtful response.

WHEN TO CONTACT SCHOOL

- Your child regularly cannot understand or complete the task.
- Homework is taking substantially longer than the suggested time.
- Homework is causing persistent worry or conflict at home.
- You need clarification about methods, expectations or additional support.

We hope this guide helps you build home learning into family routines. Your child's class teacher will be happy to listen to any concerns and suggest practical ways to support learning at home.