

HOMework EXPECTATIONS

SPRING 2023 UPDATE



We hope that you are already aware of how much we value reading in school. We have raised (and spent!) thousands of pounds on updating our library furniture and range of books; we have invested in Accelerated Reader and Dandelion Phonics books to support children throughout school in learning to read; we have protected time in our daily timetable to share high-quality texts with children and all staff share their passion for books.

We understand that every moment of learning counts and utilise our time in school to provide as many learning opportunities as we can. This extends to outside of school hours and homework. We have tried to ensure children have regular practice of key skills in reading, spelling, grammar and maths that will consolidate their learning and best prepare them for future learning.

However, we are aware that the volume of homework expectations can be off-putting, resulting in no homework being completed at all by many children throughout school. We want homework to be of value whilst manageable for children, parents and teachers. In order to rectify this and support children and their adults at home, we are going to trial changes to homework expectations over the next term.

New homework expectations

For the rest of the Spring term and start of the summer term, the expectation is that all children will read for 15-30 minutes at home, a minimum of four times a week. This should be recorded in green reading diaries to show the date, pages read and initials of an adult who listened to the child read. Children from Year 4 to Year 6 may be able to read independently but reading diaries should still be signed by an adult to confirm they have read. We would also suggest that these children should still read to an adult at least once a week. Reading can also be recorded as a voice note on Showbie.

Flashcards will continue from Reception until completion to support reading and spelling. These are given in line with the phonics taught in class.

Numbots for Reception and Key Stage 1, and Times Tables Rock Starts for Key Stage 2 should still be used daily for 5 minutes.

Rollama should also continue to be used daily for 5 minutes to practise spelling and grammar skills.

(Additional activities to support with SATs may be sent home for pupils in Year 2 and Year 6).

Star cards will be given at the end of a half term for children who regularly meet these expectations.

Children not meeting these expectations may be invited into the library at lunch times to read with an adult or Reading Ambassador.

While it is imperative that children read regularly and often to adults, sharing a story with your child will benefit their own reading skills, vocabulary and enjoyment of reading.

We encourage any children who love to complete additional work or creative tasks to continue to do so and share via Showbie.

In reducing the expectations of weekly homework, we hope that all children can make progress with their reading skills and develop their love of books.

This will be closely monitored the impact of these changes to review in the summer term, when we will contact parents and carers for a survey and make further updates.

