

Homework Policy – 2021

At Riverside Primary Academy we recognise the impact the Covid-19 pandemic has had upon our local community. We would like to give our children and families flexibility within the expectations for homework during this time.

Our Aim

We aim to provide a flexible approach to homework whereby parents/carers can support and work alongside their children yet not feel pressured in to completing lots of formal written homework. By reducing the amount of formal homework, we hope this will allow families and children time to perhaps focus upon the important things missed during lockdown (quality time with family, joining in sports clubs, spending time with friends etc).

Reading is a big focus within our school so there will continue to be an expectation that children will read every day at home; in Maths we ask that parents / carers support with basic skills such as reciting times tables and we also request that pupils continue to learn their weekly spellings. Teachers want to work with you as a partnership in your child's learning – working together to help your child to reach their potential.

As guidance only, we suggest the following as good practice:

EYFS – Nursery and Reception to learn nursery rhymes, songs and read books together. Talk about the difference between pictures and words, titles, authors' names and predict what will happen next in the story. Promote fun and enjoyment through reading stories together.

Practise counting on and back up to 5, 10, 20 and beyond if possible; know the order of numbers; recognise numbers in the written form as well as counting out different amounts.

Key Stage One - Year 1 and Year 2 continue to learn nursery rhymes, songs and read books together. Talk about the difference between pictures and words, titles, authors' names and predict what will happen next in the story. Read poems and rhymes and information books as well as stories. Children may have some phonics work to do at home. Once children can read, they should read their schoolbook every day for approximately five minutes every single day. (Guidance is also given in the Children's reading journals.)

By year 2, all children need to know their 2x, 5x and 10x tables fluently.

Lower Key Stage Two - Year 3 and year 4 – To read their schoolbook or another book every single day at home for around ten to twenty minutes. Discuss the way we read punctuation as well as words, how bold or italic words are read differently. Look for how advanced punctuation is used. For example, speech marks, brackets, commas, apostrophes etc. It is especially important that adults discuss these things with their child as they are not likely to notice them on their own.

By year 3, all children need to continue to practise their 2x, 5x and 10x tables but to also learn their 3x, 4x, 6x, 7x, 8x and 9x tables.

By year 4, all children need to consolidate their times tables and improve the speed of their recall and learn what the corresponding division facts are. For example, $7 \times 6 = 42$. Also $42 = 7 \times 6$.

For some children they will be advised to carry out elements of pre- learning by their teacher. This may mean watching a video clip or preparing for the next lesson by consolidating some key knowledge.

Upper Key Stage Two - Year 5 and Year 6 – Reading should increase to include regular sustained periods so that children develop the habit of ‘getting into a good book’. (Reading a few pages every few days inhibits this). Although fluent readers are likely to be reading independently by this age, parents/carers still need to hear them to read out loud to develop their fluency in harder text types. Developing readers will still need reading support on a daily basis.

By year 5 and year 6, it is expected that all children should have fluent recall of their times tables. Children forget them if they are not used, so a regular (daily if possible) quick and short tables quiz would help your child retain what they have learned.

For some children they will be advised to carry out elements of pre- learning by their teacher. This may mean watching a video clip or preparing for the next lesson by consolidating some key knowledge.

Our staff hope that you can support us in getting the balance right. We want to work together with you to help your child be the best they can possibly be and reach their full potential. If you have any concerns about the homework set, please do get in touch with your child’s teacher by contacting the school office.