



HOMEWORK POLICY

At Riverside Primary Academy we provide all children with homework to enable them to practise skills and learning they have already been taught in school. Sometimes the aim is to repeat something done in class as a practise exercise. On other occasions, the homework will ask children to apply their learning to a new context. At all times, however, children will not be given work to do at home that they have not learned in school unless it is a project which asks them to find out about something new. For example, to complete their own project about the Romans.

Our Aims

We aim to provide opportunities for parents/carers to work alongside their child or children to support their learning in school. This is because we want to work alongside 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:

Nursery, Reception and Year 1

Regular practise and having fun are the priorities when getting young children to learn well. Learn nursery rhymes every day, sing songs and read books together just for fun and enjoyment. When your child is ready, talk about the difference between pictures and words, titles, authors' names and learn the skill of how to predict what will happen next in the story. Read poems and rhymes and information books as well as stories. Children will have letter work (phonics) to do at home and QR codes to access daily. Once children can read, they should read their school book for approximately five minutes every single day to encourage confidence and enjoyment in the content. Keep in touch with your child's class teacher to ask what you can do at home to help your child to learn.

Knowing all basic shapes and colours, numbers to five then to ten and then to fifteen and beyond is essential for the basics in mathematics. Include recognising shapes and colours everywhere you go in the environment. Count as you go up and down steps or step on the lines between paving slabs. Maths is all around us so there are plenty of opportunities to learn the basics in maths on the way to school or when out shopping. Just make sure you both have fun!

Don't forget about science and safety. Let your child learn about what is hot and cold, how the fridge makes food cold and the freezer makes food go hard - it's all great learning. Find out what happens when we defrost ice and what happens to food when it goes mouldy. Let your child explore and help in the house and garden. Watering plants and using small scissors, folding paper and sorting things into piles are all great fun for children but so educational too.

Physical development and learning to become independent are important skills to learn when you are very young. Give your child daily opportunities to use their

developing muscles to balance, push, pull and circle their arms and legs. Letting them help to do household chores really helps their co-ordination and strength. Learning how to fasten their Velcro shoes and pick up their own coat and bag are essential basic skills they will need to become independent so, although it is hard, let them do things for themselves rather than doing too much for them.

Project Work

Throughout the school from Year 1 to Year 6, pupils will be given project work. This is a fun way to do homework. It allows children to develop their creativity and presentation skills and gives them freedom in developing aspects of the research that particularly interest them. We would like children to include art and craft ideas as well as reading and writing within these projects and most of all, we want them to have fun whilst doing them. In all cases, we encourage family members to help with project work, extending your child's abilities to go beyond what would be possible on their own. Children receive house points and certificates for completing their projects on time.

Year 1 and Year 2

By the time children get into Year 1 they will already be familiar with taking two reading books and a library book home every week. The routine of bringing their reading bag backwards and forwards every day should be already established. Children should know how to use QR codes which will increase the speed of learning in reading if they are done daily. Every child should read for at least 10 minutes daily in Year 1 and 15 minutes daily in Year 2.

Children will be given maths worksheets or on-line learning and mathematical rhymes to learn to help them remember basic maths information. They will be learning more formally how to count forwards and backwards, how to count in 2s, 5s and 10s.

Spellings will begin to be sent home in Year 1 when the teacher feels your child is ready for them. It might be 3 words to learn, 5 words or 10 words depending on how difficult they are and how challenging your child finds learning the spellings.

Year 3 and Year 4

By the time your child enters Key Stage 2, they will be asked to read their reading book and/or library book for about half an hour every single day. Regular practise is needed and reading only once or twice per week will significantly slow down the rate of progress for your child. If you are unable to dedicate this amount of time daily to hearing your child read, we do understand. However, you do still need to intervene and help rather than let them get on reading their book entirely on their own. These are the year groups where children who read regularly with an adult helping them gain fluency and efficiency in reading. Without your support they will make errors which are not corrected. To help, you could discuss the way we read punctuation as well as words and 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 very important that adults discuss these things with their child as they are not likely to notice them on their own. Frequency of reading encourages greater skills and will help your child progress through the scheme (called Accelerated Reader) more quickly.

In Years 3 and 4 all children may receive pieces of writing to practise at home. These will be elements of what they are learning at school. On occasion your child may be asked to write an entire story, poems or report. This would benefit your child enormously in consolidating their writing skills. Giving them suggestions to extend their imagination would be a great help as would supporting them with punctuation and presentation.

Spellings will be given to children to learn at home most weeks. They will be based on commonly mis-spelt words, new words related to their learning and the National Curriculum spelling list. Many spellings follow a pattern. It would be helpful if you could point out the regular patterns to your child so that it makes learning easier for them. Should you wish to look, the National Curriculum spelling lists are all published on-line so all families can access them at any time.

Maths homework is sometimes given either as worksheets or on-line. Maths homework is usually practise of a skill or process they have learned in school and will require some support or checking from you. A main feature of mathematics homework in Year 3 and 4 is to regularly use Times Tables Rockstars. By May or June of Year 4 your child will take a government test on their fluency in responding to times tables on a computerised maths test. We have found playing the Times Tables Rockstar games is the best way to become successful at this challenge.

Year 5 and Year 6

Many of the aspects of year 5 and 6's homework is in line with the homework for years 2 to 4 but it requires much more depth of study. Children will receive homework which will begin to require more concentration and self application. It would be very helpful if you could provide your child with a place to complete their work which will be quiet and clear of clutter. This might be the kitchen table between 4pm and 4.30pm if there is nowhere else in your home. We hope to adopt good learning processes which will continue when they move on to secondary school.

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 read out loud to develop their fluency in harder text types. Don't forget that the books your child is given will be increasing in difficulty so they will need you to check on their reading on a regular basis. Developing readers will still need reading support on a daily basis.

Children in Year 5 and 6 may be given more pieces of sustained writing to plan or complete at home. Children of this age should know what features make a good story, a good letter, a good report, a good newspaper article etc. Your help to check on their work would be appreciated and they would still benefit from you extending their imaginative ideas and encouraging them to use more grown up language in their writing.

Spelling homework for Years 5 and 6 are exactly the same as Years 3 and 4. Please see above.

In maths, children will receive support work for the learning they are doing in class. It could be on-line or in a work book which the school will provide to your child. Children will also receive practise test papers near the time of their SATs to help them become familiar with the test format. In year 5 and year 6, it is expected that all children continue to develop fluent recall of their multiplication and division facts. Children forget them if they are not used, so a regular (daily if possible) quick game of Times Table Rockstars would help your child retain what they have learned.

Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 Multiplication Facts

All children will learn:

By year 1, their 2x, 5x and 10x tables fluently.

By year 2, their 3x, 4x and 100x tables fluently and consolidate year 1 tables.

By year 3, their 6x, 8x and 50x tables fluency and consolidate year 1 and year 2 tables.

By year 4, their 7x, 9x, 11x and 12x fluently and consolidate their times tables and improve the speed of their recall. By year 4 pupils must be confident in recalling all multiplication and corresponding division facts.

By year 5 and year 6 all children should be confident in recalling multiplication facts and corresponding division facts. Those who struggle with this will struggle in their Key Stage 2 SATs.

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, or, you feel that the homework isn't just right, please make an appointment to see your child's teacher.

It is worth noting that when children deliberately do not attempt to do homework (and this does not include when family emergencies occur), children will be required to remain inside during their own time to complete their work. Allowing one child to opt out of doing homework whilst everyone else is expected to complete it causes bad feeling amongst a class. We therefore make it very clear that we expect everyone to be treated equally and all children are required to complete homework.

Your child's teacher is always available for you or your child to ask if you would like to discuss homework – please pop in and see us.