



# Homework Guide



I learn at school...

...and at home, too!

## Daily Expectations

<p><b>Spellings</b> The weekly spelling task will alternate between a spelling challenge (an activity) and a spelling list of around ten words to learn (ready for a Friday test). Spellings might relate to tricky words, high-frequency words, or important spelling rules / patterns. <b>Daily practice for a short while is more effective than last-minute 'cramming' on Thursday night.</b></p>	<p><b>Reading</b> Reading is so important: it could be fiction, non-fiction, magazines, websites – anything! Reading to your child is really valuable for all children, so even a bedtime story counts! <b>A minimum of 10-15 minutes daily reading is expected.</b> If your child has a Reading Record (younger children), we expect comments at least once a week.</p>	<p><b>Times Tables (Y2 – Y6)</b> By the end of Y4, pupils should know their times tables up to 12x12. This means being able to say the answer to a multiplication or division question within about five seconds. Tables tests take place on Fridays. <b>Daily practice for a short while is more effective than last-minute 'cramming' on Thursday night.</b></p>
<p><b>Top Tips:</b> <i>Parents / carers could also work with the child by using the words in written sentences or stories (to also practice handwriting and punctuation) or even in conversations (speaking and listening for the words).</i></p>	<p><b>Top Tips:</b> <i>Reading aloud to an adult is encouraged, even for older children. Also very important is discussing the texts with the child eg asking questions about the characters in a book, the layout of a factual book and the views of a website or magazine.</i></p>	<p><b>Top Tips:</b> <i>Parents / carers should work with the child by working out different strategies and 'top tips'. Practice in the car, walking to school etc all helps. Chanting forwards, backwards and alternating as you count through can all help, as can CDs and internet games.</i></p>

## Weekly Expectations

Homework is handed out on Friday and returned on Thursday. It should take no more than around 30-40 minutes, possibly carried out over a few days. Parents' comments in the homework books are welcome.

<p><b>Creative homework</b> This involves a creative piece of open-ended work based around an 'I can...' statement eg 'I can spot fractions.' or 'I know how instructions are used.' As a general guide, your child should stick to just one page of A4 (unless the teacher says otherwise!). Content will be a balanced mix of subjects.</p>	<p><b>Talk Time homework</b> This involves a discussion topic eg 'Should animals be kept in zoos?' Children should make notes (even pictures, diagrams etc) ready to participate in a class / group discussion on the topic. Please make sure you write a comment about the Talk Time discussions in the homework books.</p>	<p><b>Practice Makes Perfect homework</b> Sometimes a worksheet or series of questions might be useful to develop skills and speed eg practising column addition or a type of grammar or punctuation.</p>
<p><b>Top Tips:</b> <i>Be as creative as you like! Chat about ideas with your child: Could the homework be in the form of a collage of pics, a letter, a comic strip, some writing...? Could it use photos, drawings, fold-out 'extras' on the page...?</i></p>	<p><b>Top Tips:</b> <i>Turn the telly off! Sit around the dining table! Have a chat and share opinions and ideas! Children should talk with family, friends and each other – maybe even using FaceTime or Skype.</i></p>	<p><b>Top Tips:</b> <i>Take care not to confuse your child! This homework will be given out when the teacher knows your child can do the work using a particular method taught. Ask your child to explain methods, talking through what they're doing, and to check their answers.</i></p>