

Key Stage Two Homework Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the new academic year, I hope that you had an enjoyable summer break. Last academic year we reviewed our new homework approach and have had lots of positive feedback. This academic year we will continue with the current model. **Homework will begin on Monday 21st September.** The following pages provide additional information and rationale for the different activities that will make up our homework offer.

We consider that the core purpose of homework is for our children:

- To consolidate and practise core knowledge and skills so they remember and become fluent in reading, speaking, writing and numbers.
- To develop independent study habits, organisation and resilience that prepares them for future learning.

Furthermore, we want to ensure that we provide parents and carers accessible ways to support learning and understanding what their child is working on. We have provided a summary below of what is expected along with our homework rationale.

All homework will be shared on weekly homework grids that will be stuck into your child's homework books. All tasks should be completed in the homework books.

Teachers will acknowledge all homework, but will not provide detailed marking and next steps.

It is expected that all children complete given homework as it helps to consolidate learning.

Homework tasks that are not completed at home will be completed in school during unstructured times such as breaktimes.

If you are new to our school, your child's class teacher will share a homework book, we ask that time can be spent decorating and personalising the front and back cover of the homework book. Please ensure that your child's name is clearly visible. We also ask that you protect the front and back cover by covering with clear plastic.

Tip for Parents: Encourage your child to complete homework in small chunks across the week rather than leaving it until the last minute.

The DfE advised time guidelines for children in primary schools is:

Years 1 and 2: 1 hour per week
Years 3 and 4: 1.5 hours per week
Years 5 and 6: 30 minutes per day

We recommend that parents recognise this and our expectations will never exceed these recommendations. This time allocation should include children's self reading for pleasure. We also believe that it is important that children have time to spend with their family and with other activities particularly during the primary years and want to support our parents to do this.

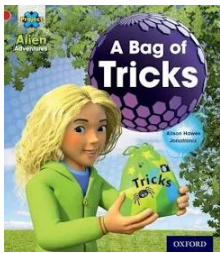


What effective homework looks like at Edward Pauling Primary

Reading

Your child is expected to read at home **each evening** as this has a large impact upon their reading, writing and confidence in all areas of their learning. Please record any comments you have, or sign to acknowledge that your child has read, in your child's reading records. An adult looks at these each week and keeps a record of how many times they read. **Your child should bring their reading folder to school each day.**

Staged Reading Books



Once your child has mastered applying set 1,2,3 Read Write Inc sounds, they will be given a staged Reading Book, which will be changed weekly.

At this stage in your child's reading there will be greater focus on developing reading comprehension in school, however as part of our guided reading model every child in school will read with an adult every 2 weeks.

Free Choice Books



Each week your child will visit the school library to choose their own choice of book based on their own interest. The purpose of children choosing their own library books to read at home is to foster a love for reading. Your child may need support with reading this book.

Research shows that children who read for pleasure often perform better across all subjects.



Writing

Vocabulary development

Each term, we will share a poem for our children in Years One to Six to learn by heart.

Research Evidence suggests we can support early literacy outcomes by using songs and rhymes that include alliteration and repetition to develop children's vocabulary and knowledge of story structure. Research shows that learning poetry by heart not only improves ones ability to communicate, but also enhances cognitive function, boosts emotional well-being, and improves literacy.

Spelling

Research evidence suggests that spelling tests not only increases anxiety for many children, but focus on short-term memorisation rather than long term retention. At Edward Pauling we ensure that the teaching of spelling is taught within the context of reading and writing and teachers focus on word patterns, phonics patterns and word construction.

Throughout the week, there is regular practice rather than one-off tests.



Each week, for those children who have completed the Read, Write Inc phonics programme they will be taught a spelling pattern by their class teacher. Children should practice applying and developing their knowledge by regularly completing the activities set on spelling shed by their class teacher. Each week, teachers will dictate sentences for children to apply their knowledge of the taught sound pattern to help support their planning and assessment.

For those children who have gaps in their spelling knowledge teachers will share spellings that your child is not secure with. To support home learning teachers will share individual word banks for your child to learn at home. These spellings will be tested in school, once your child is secure in those spellings a new bank of words will be shared. These spellings are from a collection of words that are regularly used when writing.

Extended Writing

Studies show that when students are allowed to choose their topics or engage in authentic writing, their motivation and enjoyment increase. Our aim is to inspire, excite and engage children in authentic, original and free-flowing expression of thoughts, feelings and ideas. Parental encouragement and engagement in fun, collaborative writing activities in the home have a direct, positive impact on children's writing skills and attitudes.

Each week, teachers will provide an optional writing task that children may choose to complete. This task may relate to a particular aspect of current learning, a world affair or will be provided with a writing stimulus- such as a picture. **This work will not be marked by the teacher.** Those children who have completed the writing task will be asked to read their work aloud to the class.



Maths

Key Instant Recall of Facts (KIRF)

Each half term, your child will bring home a KIRF sheet that focuses on specific facts appropriate for their year group. We encourage you to support your child to spend a few minutes each day practising these facts at home. Short, regular practice makes a big difference!

Here are some ideas for practising KIRFs at home:

- Play quick-fire recall games or quizzes
- Use flashcards or online maths games
- Practise during everyday activities, such as on the school run or at the dinner table

Our aim is to make learning Maths fun and to build fluency through regular, positive reinforcement.

Research shows that a whole-school approach designed to ensure students have rapid recall of essential mathematical facts, reduces the cognitive load on working memory and allows children to tackle more complex tasks.

Consolidation Task



Each week, children in Years 1-6 will be set a consolidation task to complete based on a lesson that has been taught in the week. If your child is finding the given task tricky, we suggest to stop and to engage with the *talk time task* that will be shared via teams. The talk time task has been completed in school and the practical nature of the task should support your child in completing the activity sheet with little support.

Research supports that the primary purpose of homework is to reinforce learning that has already been taught in class, not to introduce new concepts. Homework tasks should closely mirror the examples and concepts taught in school to ensure pupils have a clear and accurate foundation to build upon.

Mental Maths



All children from Year 1 to 6 are able to log in to times tables rock stars to practice recalling their timetable knowledge. It is expected that all children are able to quickly recall multiplication facts up to x12 by the end of Year Four. Times Tables Rockstars is most suitable for children from Year 3.

<https://trockstars.com/>



There are a number of learning games to help consolidate times table and number facts on TopMarks, the activities on TopMarks are suitable for all year groups.

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/>



You can show you value your child's homework by:

- providing a suitable place in which your child can do their homework, preferably with an adult to discuss, encourage and support;
- making it clear to your child that you value homework and support the school in explaining how it can help learning;
- ensuring work is complete and submitted on time;
- checking your child spends a suitable amount of time on homework.

Additionally, you can support your child's development by:

- visits to libraries, museums etc;
- cooking with them;
- taking your child swimming;
- playing games, e.g. board games, cards, ball games;
- watching informative TV programmes together;
- providing opportunities for craft activities, e.g. cutting, sticking, sewing, painting etc;
- gardening and growing plants;
- using the internet to research something with your child (following guidelines for safe internet use);
- attending any school workshops that may be on offer

If you require any further information, or support with accessing homework then please do speak to your child's class teacher.

Warmest regards,

Mr Malin
Headteacher

