

THE Homework Q&A HANDBOOK FOR PARENTS

Q1. My child keeps forgetting to bring his homework home. How do I know which days to expect homework, so that I can remind him?

A1. Class newsletters at the start of each term give details of what days homework can be expected.

Q2. My child keeps forgetting to hand her homework in. What can I do?

A2. Teachers do their best to chase up homework but it is very time-consuming. Parents can help by reminding children in the morning to give their homework in. Children are encouraged to be independent as much as possible. We accept this does not always work.

Q3. Home work always ends up being a battle. What should I do?

A3. Choose your time carefully. Don't make your child miss their favourite TV programme, or make them do it when they are too tired or hungry. If it continues to be a battle, have a word with the teacher. They may have other ways to motivate your child.

Q4. There hasn't been time to do the homework this week. What should we do?

A4. Teachers are very understanding and accept that there are circumstances where it is not possible to fit homework in to a busy week. Write a note to the teacher explaining, or have a word with them.

Q5. My child's homework is too long/too short/too hard/too easy.

A5. If homework is taking too long, don't pressurise your child to finish it. It is important for them to have time to play, relax and spend time with family and friends. Allow them to stop (if they want to) when the time limit is reached and write a note to the teacher explaining why it is not finished. If homework seems to be too hard or too easy, please speak to the teacher. Many children work at a different pace at home and school. Some find it harder to concentrate at home, some find it easier.

Q6. How much help should I give my child with her homework?

A6. Be prepared to help your child but not to the point of doing it for them. If your explanation seems to confuse them, stop and talk to the teacher. If you check your child's work and get them to correct their mistakes, please let the teacher know. In years 5 & 6, for project work, helping your child with research would be valuable.

Q7. My child has got stuck with the maths homework and won't let me help because I try to do it 'the wrong way'.

A7. Send a note with the homework explaining that your child tried but was unable to finish the work. The teacher can then go over it again in school. The way that maths is taught has changed so don't worry if it is different to the way you learned. Talk to the teacher if you want to know more.

Q8. How often should I write comments about my child's homework and how/where should I do this?

A8. Teachers really value feedback from parents – it is very helpful. If you have time to write comments, please do it as often as possible. Children can write comments too if they want.

Q9. My child tries to cheat when reading, by looking at the pictures. Should I cover them up and make her read the words?

A9. NO! Don't worry – this is completely normal. In *all* stages of learning to read children are actively encouraged to use pictures as clues to the words. It is an important learning step. The whole point of reading is for interest and pleasure; please don't make your child regard it as a 'test' each time. Emphasise your enjoyment and keep relaxed, ready to help with any words that your child does not know.

Q10. I do not agree with homework – is it compulsory?

A10. It is not compulsory for children to do homework. However we believe that homework is valuable for many reasons e.g. for children's development and independence and to help parents share and support their child's learning (see Homework Policy). Partnership is one of our 3 core values. By choosing our school we expect parents work in partnership with us and support our policies.

Time spent learning at home is extremely useful to your child's development. We know it can feel like hard work sometimes but it really is worth the effort.

Q11. Does quality homework come under the school reward system?

A11. YES!