



Gade Valley Primary School
Homework Procedures - November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Due to the current measures in school, we have made adjustments to the usual homework procedures. This is a temporary change in light of the Covid-19 pandemic to minimise risks and reduce transmission.

New (CGP) Books

This week, your child will receive their own set of work books. These books will be used for homework at least up to Easter (and possibly beyond!). Teachers will also make use of these books in the event that your child has to learn 'remotely'.

Please look after the books and keep them at home (they should not be brought in to school). When required (for homework or remote learning), the teachers will provide suitable guidance. In addition to receiving the books, we have sent a copy of all answers to you. Once your child has completed any directed tasks in the book, we ask that you help them to mark their work. Once this has been completed, please record (in the planners/reading records) how they got on and any comments you have: the teachers will look at this and give feedback and extra support if necessary.

If, for any reason, the books get damaged or go missing please contact the class teacher who will talk you through the process of ordering a new one.

Our Routines and Expectations

In EYFS and KS1, homework will be shared on a Thursday and is due for completion by the following Monday.

In KS2, homework will be shared on a Friday and is due for completion by the following Wednesday.

The work set will be based on current learning within the curriculum. All work set will have been explained and discussed before coming home. It is our intention, and good practice, not to send work home that the child cannot already do (parents are not expected to teach new skills).

We do not specify amounts of time that must be spent on a task, preferring individual children and families to set their own routines. Please note, we recommend that children spend approximately 30 minutes a week playing Spelling Frame (Years 1-6) and TimesTables Rock Stars (Years 2-6); they are welcome to play more if they wish! Broadly speaking these are current expectations each week:

Nursery - sharing books, special tasks and communicating with school via the 'Family Learning' book.

Reception - daily reading and weekly Thursday homework that alternates between phonics and maths.

Year 1 and 2 - daily reading, spellings, timestables (for year 2) and weekly Thursday homework that alternates between maths and English.

Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 - daily reading, times tables, spellings and a longer weekly task alternating between English and maths (or both).

Reading

To promote increased decoding and comprehension skills, children should read regularly to an adult at home.

To help encourage the children to read more at home with you, we have the following reading initiatives:

- When your child has read 50 times at home they will receive a certificate celebrating their achievement, if they surpass this and then reach 100 times they will receive the bronze award, 150 the silver, 200 the gold award, 250 the Silver Star award and 300 they will receive the Gold Star award.
- When the children have read five times at home in a week they will be given a Willy Wonka Golden Ticket which is then put into an exciting weekly draw. The EYFS/KS1 and KS2 winners are announced during our weekly sharing assembly and are presented with a delicious Wonka Bar by none other than Willy Wonka and his Oompa Loompas!

Please ensure that you have signed your child's reading record/planner each time they have read at home.

Spelling/Phonics

In year 1 and 2, children will have daily phonics lessons (which include spellings). The children are expected to play games on Spelling Frame that relate to these lessons. The teachers will indicate which to practise.

In years 3-6, the children will have daily spelling lessons which involve them working on a set spelling rule/pattern. On a Friday they will complete a dictation exercise on the spelling rule for that week.

Timestables

Each child from Year 2 onwards will be expected to learn their times tables and division facts. Times tables will be tested on a Friday morning during 'speed tables'. Children are expected to practise TT Rock Stars regularly.

Online Learning Platforms

Tasks involve children completing activities on an online learning platform such as TT Rockstars and Spelling Frame. On these occasions, the school will offer support to children who do not have access to the internet.

Extra Support

The school will be offering support to particular children who struggle to hand in their homework on time or may need extra help at school. Support will be given in the form of a 'homework club' during part of a lunch-time each week within class bubbles. Some children with special learning needs will be given suitable alternative homework as identified in their learning plan.

Tips to help your child

Make sure your child has a quiet, well-lit place to do homework. Avoid having your child do homework with the television on or in places with other distractions, such as people coming and going.

Help your child with time management. Establish a set time each day for doing homework. Don't let your child leave homework until just before bedtime.

Encourage your child to organise his/her time effectively. It is recommended that a small amount of homework should be completed daily and it should not be left to build up.

Be positive about homework. Tell your child how important school is. The attitude you express about homework will be the attitude your child acquires.

Children should attempt tasks independently in the first instance. Try not to offer support immediately. Let your child 'have a go' on his/her own first.

When your child asks for help, provide guidance, not answers. Giving answers means your child will not learn the material. Too much help teaches your child that when the going gets rough, someone will do the work for him or her. If your child has needed support, write a note to explain this on the homework.

Reward progress in homework. If your child has been successful in homework completion and is working hard, celebrate that success with a special event (e.g., pizza, a walk, a trip to the park) to reinforce the positive effort.

What to do if you have concerns

If you find the homework inappropriate for your child, if they lack interest, if it becomes a battleground or if you are concerned that homework is given inconsistently please talk with your child's teacher in the first instance.

Thank you, as always, for your fantastic support. If you have any further concerns or questions, please contact the school office.

Mr Barron