

St. Mary's Catholic Primary School



Inspiring Children to love
learning and live in the
light of Christ

Homework Policy

September 2023

St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

Homework is considered to be an important part of the children's school experience and will be used at St Mary's Catholic School. Its aim is to help children revise and to reinforce their learning.

It is an expectation that parents help children with key skills including reading, spellings and times tables/number bonds as are appropriate to the age of the child. This is in line with what is expected by those who take additional music lessons both in, or out, of school.

Children are expected to work hard during the school day and so it is important not to overload a child. With this in mind, the school has agreed these guidelines. We call on all parents to support these guidelines to enable your child to succeed.

The homework structure is designed to prepare children for secondary schools and is as such set using Homework Books unless the children are in Nursery.

Nursery

Children's interests are at the centre of their learning experiences and parents are encouraged to record these using 'SeeSaw'. We strongly encourage the sharing of real books at home – books and advice are available from the classroom. No formal homework is set but notification of how you can support learning will come via SeeSaw and termly curriculum over views.

Reception

Up to 1 hour per week. This is based on work relating to phonics, topics, sharing of books and other learning in class. Reading and the sharing of books is vital. Each child will be sent home with a phonics resource such as a reading book and 'tricky words'/ flash cards. Children's interests are at the centre of their home learning experiences and parents are encouraged to record these on 'Seesaw'. Homework tasks in addition to phonics will be notified by 'Seesaw' and may include bringing in items for topics or completing mini learning challenges.

Year 1

Up to 1 hour per week, reading and phonic based spellings and another: usually a maths based challenge. Some of this may be linked to topic.

Year 2

1 hour per week maths, work based on phonics/spellings and reading – please record this in the reading diaries even if it just the name of the adult acknowledging that reading took place. On occasions, as in Year 1 some of this will be linked to topic.

Year 3 & 4

Up to 1 ½ hours per week – Two x ½ hour sessions relating to English and maths in addition to reading. Reading should be recorded in Reading Diaries. English will be related to spellings, handwriting, grammar, comprehension or topic work. Maths will have a significant focus on fluency, including times tables. Children will also receive weekly spellings with related work that focuses on specific phonics/ spelling rules and/or word beginnings and endings (incl. prefixes and suffixes).

Year 5

Three pieces of homework per week (usually includes maths and English) – up to 1 ¾ hours per week. Homework will include a piece relating to topic or science work. Children are expected to read regularly and widely and will be followed up with work in class including book reviews. Children will also receive weekly spellings, with related work, that focuses on specific phonics/ spelling rules and/or word beginnings and endings (incl. prefixes and suffixes). Maths will have a significant focus on fluency, including times tables.

Year 6

Homework will include maths, English (to incl. spelling, punctuation and grammar) and one other relating to topic or science. Maths will have a significant focus on fluency, including times tables. Although 2 hours per week is used as a guide, this is likely to increase in order to support children in the lead up to the end of year tests. After the tests, considerably less homework is given.

No formal homework will be set in the first and last weeks of term.

Typical Homework that is set:

- **Spelling, punctuation and grammar**

Samples of spellings and spelling rules are tested on a weekly basis. Full spelling assessments take place at intervals throughout the year. Please note that some children will have spellings and spelling rules that are separately set as agreed in Provision Plans. Punctuation and grammar is focused on using set books.

- **Reading**

Children receive a small pack of books from a variety of schemes and 'real' books. These are noted in the Reading Diary that accompanies.

- **Maths**

Homework is given each week to reinforce and consolidate previous learning, including that from past years. Learning of these is pretty essential for getting children prepared for the Maths World Cup rounds that are held throughout the year!

- **There may be opportunities for children to undertake mini project-based tasks.**

Homework will set in homework books for all.

Children are expected to do homework but if they unable to do it, parents are asked to send in a signed note or have a quick word with the: a note counts for everything.

If a child does not do homework and there is no note, they may be asked to complete it in their own time at school otherwise.

- **Please note that children are always welcome to do homework in school during Club time if they usually go there for wrap around care.**

Homework will be acknowledged by teachers through ticks and House Points.