



Escomb Primary School Homework Policy - SEPTEMBER 2021

This homework policy has been reviewed in the light of feedback received from pupil and parental questionnaires and discussions with staff.

At Escomb primary school, we believe that homework:

- consolidates and reinforces skills and understanding in numeracy, literacy and other curriculum areas
- helps raise the level of achievement and rates of progress of individual children
- engages and informs parents about children's current learning
- provides opportunities for parents and children to work together
- fosters an effective partnership between home and school.

We value the support of parents/carers and we believe that this policy will be successful if there is a strong partnership between home and school which is also reflected in our Home-School Agreement.

We recognise that all children need leisure time and hope that our policy reflects a balance so children can extend and consolidate their learning with parental support while still allowing 'down time.'

A breakdown of how homework is structured is attached.

This has been designed to encourage a gradual progression of skills and expectation so by the time children reach Year 6 they have established a clear routine in preparation for the next phase of their education. Most of the homework is provided for completion over the course of a week, fortnight or term so it can be made to fit around family lifestyles

What sort of homework will be set at Escomb Primary School?

Reading - Daily reading will continue to be given a high priority from Reception through to Year 6. Children across the school will be expected to read at least 5 times per week.

Read Write Inc Spellings - Children from Years 2-6 will complete a spelling log. These are words set individually for them to learn as they work through the school spelling programme. Reception children will be set RWI sounds and Y1 will be given weekly spelling activities to complete.

Maths and English - Homework will be set either in written form or on one of our online platforms - *Purple mash, MyMaths, TT Rockstars*

Other - Learning Challenge work will link to different subject areas and might include researching information, art work, a model, a presentation, a science experiment or a written piece of work.

NB: Homework will be differentiated to suit the needs of the individual child; either by content or outcome.

How long should homework take each week?

Current government guidelines suggest that:

- Years 1 and 2 should spend about one hour a week.
- Years 3 and 4 should spend about 1.5 hours a week.
- Years 5 and 6 should spend 30 minutes a day, or a total of 2.5 hours per week.

As a school, we have decided to adopt this guidance in determining how long homework should take. However, these are only guidelines and some children may want to spend longer on some aspects of homework.

When will homework be set?

Homework will be set across the school on a Friday and handed in by the following Wednesday. This will allow children sufficient time to complete their homework either during the week or at the weekend.

Daily reading should occur 5 times a week and be signed off by parents/carers.

In Reception Class and Key Stage 1, children's reading books will be collected in once a week and checked and changed on a specified day.

As children move into Key Stage 2 (Year 3-6) there are some additions to homework expectations and Year 6 homework can differ slightly in order to prepare the children for their end of year tests and secondary school.

What will happen if Homework is not handed in on time?

If children have not completed homework, or provided a letter from a parent/carer to explain the reasons why, they will in general have the opportunity to complete outstanding homework in school time. If lack of homework becomes a recurring problem, the class teacher will contact parents / carers to discuss this matter further. We do appreciate that there might be circumstances when it is impossible for homework to be completed. Please make sure your child's teacher is aware of this. (Letter/phone call)

NB As part of Escomb Primary School's Home - School Agreement, all parents, carers and children agree to complete the homework on time and to a good standard.

How can parents help their children to learn and develop successfully?

Any help that parents and carers feel able to offer their children at home is really worthwhile. Helping a child with homework can and should be a positive experience. The individual attention a parent / carer can give, even if only for a short time, can help to motivate a child, build their confidence and self esteem and help them progress.

When helping a child with homework it is important to make this as stress free, constructive and enjoyable an experience as possible. Most children become unsettled if their parents/carers show too much anxiety over their progress or make obvious comparisons with siblings or friends. Make it clear to your child that you value homework and are interested in their reading and other tasks. Encourage and praise your child when they have completed their homework. It is important that homework reflects the true ability of the child. If your child is finding the homework tasks set too difficult or stressful, then please let the class teacher know.

All adults need to remember that children make lots of mistakes. Making mistakes is essential in order to learn. Mistakes do need to be put right, but not necessarily all at once!

Try to provide a suitably quiet place for the homework to be done. A routine can also be useful, so children know when homework takes place each week. Children also work much more effectively if they are not tired.

Homework Overview for 2021-2022

Year Group	Homework
Reception	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children will have a sound book. New sounds will be added as the children learn them to be reinforced at home. • Children will also be given a reading book to practise their phonic and wider reading skills. Each child will have a home/school reading diary for parents to record this in. • In preparation for new topics, parents will be asked to discuss/share ideas with their child. • Children will be asked to bring things in throughout the year to enhance focused activities.
Year 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily Reading 10 mins x 5 (50 minutes) • English and/or Maths will be sent on a Friday to be returned by Wednesday. Worksheets will be sent home to reinforce the learning in class. Some activities may be set on our online platforms. • Learning Challenge homework will be set as appropriate. This will usually involve some basic research work.
Year 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily Reading 10 mins x 5 (50 minutes) • English and/or Maths will be sent on a Friday to be returned by Wednesday. Worksheets will be sent home to reinforce the learning in class. Some activities may be set on our online platforms. • Learning Challenge homework will be set as appropriate. This will usually involve some basic research work. See additional information for spellings
Year 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily Reading 15 minutes x 5 (75 mins) • Friday - English and Maths Homework given - to be completed for Wednesday. One task will be completed on paper/in homework books and the other will be set on our online platforms. • Research work relating to other subject areas will be given at intervals throughout the term. • Reading Record books should be signed in order for books to be changed. See additional information for spellings
Year 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily Reading 15 minutes x 5 (75 mins) • Friday - English and Maths Homework given - to be completed for Wednesday. One task will be completed on paper/in homework books and the other will be set on our online platforms • Research work relating to other subject areas will be given at intervals throughout the term. • Reading Record books should be signed in order for books to be changed. See additional information for spellings
Year 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily Reading 15 minutes x 5 (75 mins) • Friday - English and Maths Homework given - to be completed for Wednesday. One task will be completed on paper/in homework books and the other will be set on our online platforms • Research work relating to other subject areas will be given at intervals throughout the term. • Reading Record books should be signed in order for books to be changed. See additional information for spellings
Year 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily Reading 15 minutes x 5 (75 mins) • Friday - English and Maths Homework given - to be completed for Wednesday. One task will be completed on paper/in homework books and the other will be set on our online platforms • Research work relating to other subject areas will be given at intervals throughout the term. • Reading Record books should be signed in order for books to be changed. See additional information for spellings

Read Write Inc. Spelling Programme

Children from **Year 2-6** will follow the **Read Write Inc. spelling programme**. The programme supports the aims of the National Curriculum to ensure that children:

- Spell new words correctly and have plenty of practice in spelling them.
- Spell words as accurately as possible using their phonic knowledge.
- Are supported in understanding and applying the concepts of word structure.
- Spell words they have not yet been taught by using what they have learned about how spelling works in English.

Children work through a practice book, completing a range of spelling tasks and games. Each unit is linked to an area of spelling appropriate to that year group. Children will also be coming home with a log book (this should be kept in their school bag). In class they will log words they may have spelt incorrectly or are finding difficult to remember. These words should be practised at home as they will be used at the end of the unit as part of a spelling game. There are no structured spelling tests, just many opportunities for your child to consolidate their knowledge of new words in a fun and interactive way.

Children from Year2-6 should also spend time working on their year group spelling lists. These can be found at the back of their log book, where they can independently tick them off when they can spell the word confidently. This will support them to reinforce and consolidate their knowledge of these spelling rules and patterns.

Children in **Year 1** will be given a list of their common exception words to learn at home.