

Ashford CE Primary School

Home Learning
Guidelines



2018–19

Home Learning at Ashford CE Primary School

Here at Ashford CE Primary School we aim to make our home learning manageable, clear and productive for the children, parents and teachers. Our aims are to provide children with opportunities to consolidate their learning from school, talk about their learning with parents and develop study skills which will help prepare them for secondary school.

Home learning will be set by your child's class teacher every Thursday. The children will have a variety of tasks to complete and these will vary depending on the year group to which they belong. The children are expected to complete all tasks by the following Tuesday unless otherwise instructed.

Reception Home Learning

Reception children are given targeted reading books, which they are to read at home daily. We would like them to practice their sounds and blending, re-tell stories based on picture books and recall key elements of books they have read. Children in Reception are also set Mathematics tasks to complete online.

Home learning sheets

Year 1 to 6 home learning will consist of a sheet of activities usually including spellings to learn and practise, a reading task linked to their books, Mathematics challenges and an activity based on their learning in theme lessons. Next to each activity on the sheet will be a star which you or your child can colour in to show that it has been completed. The sheet (which you can see a sample of overleaf) should be stuck in their home learning books and on the following pages the children can complete the activities and evaluate their learning. Teachers will acknowledge the work of the children through marking but will only leave detailed comments where extra effort has been shown by children.

Children in year 5 and 6 may also be given theme-based projects to complete over a longer period of time in addition to this. Also, in the run up to SATs in May, Year 6 may expect to receive additional revision packs to help them prepare for tests.

If your child is having difficulties accessing Mathematics at home, please let your child's class teacher know as soon as possible so that we can help support them to complete their home learning on time.

Home learning books and activity sheets

Years 1-6 will receive a home learning sheet similar to this every Thursday, which will include a range of different tasks and activities, some of which will be completed online and others in your home learning books. The sheet must be stuck on the next available page of your home learning book and any notes made on the following pages.

Children may cover their home learning book to reflect their personal interests as long as any images and text are appropriate and the book is kept neat.

YEAR 4 HOME LEARNING			
 For your home learning this week, complete the following activities. Colour the stars in when you have completed the activity. Stick this sheet into your home learning book. Hand it in on Tuesday next week.			
Reading Read your reading book and try to learn the meanings of at least three words that you do not know.  Don't forget to leave comments in the Reading Record Book. 		Maths Complete your Mathletics challenges online  Practise your 3 and 4 times tables 	
Spellings and Phonics Practise these spellings:			Theme In our Theme lessons we will be learning about Roman Roads. Can you find any of these roads on maps of our local area? 
Group 1 illegal, illegible immature, immortal, impossible, impatient, imperfect irregular, irrelevant, irresponsible	Group 2 supermarket, superman, superstar antiseptic, anti-clockwise, antisocial autobiography, autograph subdivide, subheading,	Group 3 forgetting, forgotten, beginning, beginner, prefer, preferred gardening, gardener, limiting, limited, 	
Other things to do If you want to learn something else, why not try and learn one of the skills in the 'How I can Help' pages on the school website			

Mathletics for Reception – Year 6

Mathletics is a fun and interactive maths support for the children to access at home. Your child's class teacher will set weekly tasks that will relate to the units of work we have covered in school that week. If your child is finding a task difficult there is a help button with an interactive support to guide them through how to answer the questions. The tasks are pitched to support and challenge your child and by completing them they can earn points to play other games, build up their own character and challenge their friends. If your child has completed the tasks set by their teacher, there are lots of additional games and maths problems to solve, as well as interactive times-tables practice. A guide to using Mathletics is available on the school website or ask the school office for a paper copy.

Grammar, Spellings and Sentence Writing for Year 1 – Year 6

Children from Year 1 to Year 6 will be given a list of spellings each week. The children need to learn these words, find out what they mean and use them in context by putting them into a grammatically accurate sentence. These sentences can be written in their home learning books. The aim of this is to extend the children's vocabulary, improve reading, writing, encourage dictionary skills and improve sentence formation. These activities are given to the children on a Thursday and are due back on a Tuesday. This gives staff enough time to mark the work and return it to the children before the new set is given out.

Reading

Our reading scheme is a colour coded system.

The benefits of which are:

- A great number of books from which to choose.
- Children who struggle have a wide variety from which to choose.
- A variety of characters and types of books develops a true reader.
- Less competitiveness in children and parents.
- Choice enables children to find stories they enjoy.
- Children remain confident and move onto paperbacks with ease.

Additional Home Learning Activities

We will also be continuing with setting the children learning challenges that relate to theme areas that they are learning about in class (these may be set half termly) and competitions throughout the year. We want to offer as much support, and additional extra-curricular learning and opportunities for our pupils, as we can.

Changing Books

- Children have the opportunity to change their books each day if they have brought a book back from home.
- Separate boxes for each level will be available and children will select their own book at a set time of day.
- Adult support is there initially but we encourage children to take responsibility for changing their own book.
- Children often like to select the same book for a couple of days or take a book again as it gives them confidence in reading.
- If you feel they are not changing their book regularly please let us know.
- Children will be moved on to the next reading level when we feel they are ready. We usually want the child to be 90% accurate in their reading before we do this; but aspects such as using expression and understanding what they are reading will also play a part in the decision.
- Children will have a Reading Record / Home Learning Diary for you to write in when you have read with them at home, however it is not for detailed communication with the teacher. If you have any concerns about your child's reading or feel you need any support please do ask their teacher.
- We concentrate on teaching reading skills with your child at least once a week but we need your help to reinforce these skills by hearing them read at home. We will stamp their Reading Record or acknowledge progress at times making comments.

Reading for Pleasure

Our aim is to provide children with good experiences of reading so that we develop and nurture children who will read for pleasure. This can be done in a variety of ways:-

- Reading should be **enjoyable** and something that children want to do. It is a life skill and it is important that children find it pleasurable and valuable. As parents and teachers we need to ensure that we do not put children off reading by turning it into a chore.
- Children need to see **good role models** of reading for pleasure, from parents/carers/siblings. Children pick up so many habits by imitating the behaviour of those around them and as parents you have the greatest influence. If they can see you enjoying reading and talking about what you

- As research has shown, children who are **read to** from an early age tend to become enthusiastic readers themselves. Through being read to they pick up so much information about the process of reading and again see a good reading role model.
- Children thrive by having a **special time and place** to be read to – for many this will be at bedtime. Do try and make time for this, once a day is beneficial.
- We want to nurture **good reading habits** and **positive attitudes** which will help our children to be confident readers for life.

How you can help

- Each Home Learning sheet will reference a “How I Can Help” section of the school website. Here you will find a wide range of age-appropriate skills which you can practise with your children. In addition to this:
- **Make reading fun** – if reading is becoming a battle each night don’t push the issue. Children learn to walk/talk/swim at different times and when they are ready, reading is no different. As we said before, if you make it a chore and they feel pressured they are more likely to be put off reading. Some children will be fluent readers by the end of Reception – for others it will take until they are Juniors.
- If they are reluctant to read to you, **read to them**, either the book from school or forget about school reading books for a time and read them books or comics of their own choice.
- **Read a range of different materials** – books – fiction and non-fiction, comics, signs, labels and recipes. Remember the library is a great place to visit, and it’s free!
- Rather than read, **play word games** with them – there are lots of different games you can buy, such as junior scrabble, bananagrams etc, just playing ‘I Spy’ or finding rhyming words can be just as good sometimes.
- We don’t want children to feel that they are failing. Give them lots of **praise and encouragement** for their achievement and appreciate what a mammoth task they are undertaking.

Overview of Weekly Expectations	
Year	Home Learning
Reception	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily Reading • Mathletics
Year 1-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily Reading • Mathletics • Spelling and Grammar work • Theme-based task
Year 5-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily Reading • Mathletics • Spelling and Grammar work • Theme-based task • Additional theme-based projects • Preparation packs for Year 6 SATs

Home Learning Rewards

We appreciate that home learning can be difficult for some children. We want to give them as many opportunities to succeed as we possibly can. As an extra bonus, each week, one of the areas of home learning will be given special priority. Across the school we will select an area of focus (for example: Mathletics, reading etc) and any child who completes it by the due date will receive additional house points. This home learning reward focus will change each week and we hope that you will find this is a good way to get your children motivated to complete tasks on time.

School Website Links

There are a range of exciting and educational web links that children can explore in the children's section of the school website.

For further ways to help support your child with their home learning, please refer to the school website for links, tips and advice.

www.ashford-primary.surrey.sch.uk

