



A Parents' Guide to Homework: Autumn 2018

Reading, phonics, spelling and mental maths are the core skills we ask children to practise regularly at home.

Reading:

All children should be reading regularly (daily wherever possible). They should be reading aloud to an adult to practise fluency, expression and understanding. It is helpful if children can discuss their reading afterwards. Use what, where, why, who, how questions to check understanding and discuss key vocabulary. Ask infer questions too. Why do you think he acted in that way?

Early readers will be on a banded book to ensure they are reading at a level which enables them to be independent (they can read at least 90% of the words). Children are regularly assessed and moved up the book band system. When sufficiently fluent they become a free reader. Our website gives links to reading lists to help direct book choices.

www.astley.worcs.sch.uk

Please record their reading in their record or diary. There are incentives in every class for home reading! Children are free to choose home, school, library, audio or online books including newspapers and magazines. We will encourage them to be reading at the appropriate level for their age to ensure they are challenging themselves.

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home>



We have 'Rapid Read' for KS2 children who are not yet free readers to help catch them up. Please ask your teacher if you feel your child would benefit from using this at home.



Read to Succeed!

We are passionate about encouraging children to be excellent readers and to be lifelong lovers of books. In school, children have daily reading lessons, they use good quality books to improve their writing and we have regular author or book Day events too.



Regular reading is known to improve children's ability to communicate and to think. Confident readers are also likely to be more successful in both their future school and working life.

We encourage all parents to purchase with us by reading regularly with their children at home. Children bring home a book from school to read each day from the day they start us taking to the day they leave.

There are also many other ways that you can help foster a love of books. If you wish to join the local library for free, please click [here](#).

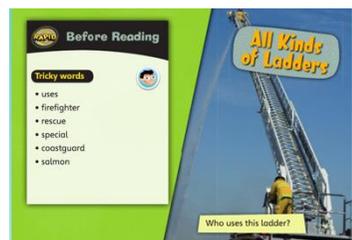
Your child might like to enjoy ebooks online by [visiting us here](#).

These websites are also useful if your child needs to discover new authors in order to stay interested and excited about books.

[please click here](#).

If you are interested to know the top 100 books children should read during their time at primary school,

Parents can sign up to read online. The ebooks will also read aloud to children to develop enjoyment. At the early stages re-reading a book is good reinforcement.



Maths

Successful mathematicians feel confident about number and place value. Practising number bonds and times tables helps support all other number work. Developing fast recall takes daily home practise.

Hit the Button is an excellent tool for sharpening mental maths skills using competition. Do set challenges for your children. If they are really good, they should be aiming for 50 correct answers in the time allowed.

www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button



Mathsframe is a site we buy for children to use at home and at school. Children will be directed to games they should be playing to reinforce their home learning by their classteacher.

Username: **astley** Password: **maths2013**

<https://mathsframe.co.uk/>

Other good games can be found on **Topmarks** and we will signpost children to appropriate games during the year. www.topmarks.co.uk

Phonics

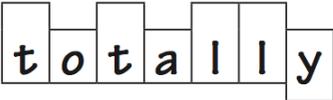


Children learn 31 sounds in reception giving them the tools they need to word build for reading and spelling. RWInc Speed Sound books come home regularly to enable you to reinforce learning these sounds at home.

Once these are grasped children move to set 2 (12 sounds) and set 3 (17 sounds). They need to know and identify these sounds in words to successfully complete the Phonic Screening test in Year One.

Spelling

There are 'common exception word' lists for each year group which the children are required to be able to spell by the end of the year. Spelling takes practise! We teach spelling for 15 minutes each day based on spelling rules. Children are tested on the CEW lists termly and based on this assessment they will be asked to practise learning the words they don't yet know. Children should choose a method that suits them. We teach the following strategies over time. **Children should concentrate on 5 words a week and be able to write them in a dictated sentence.**

Look, say, cover, write, check	This is probably the most common strategy used to learn spellings. Look: first look at the whole word carefully and if there is one part of the word that is difficult, look at that part in more detail. Say: say the word as you look at it, using different ways of pronouncing it if that will make it more memorable. Cover: cover the word. Write: write the word from memory, saying the word as you do so. Check: Have you got it right? If yes, try writing it again and again! If not, start again – look, say, cover, write, check.
Trace, copy and replicate (and then check)	This is a similar learning process to 'look, say, cover, write, check' but is about developing automaticity and muscle memory. Write the word out on a sheet of paper ensuring that it is spelt correctly and it is large enough to trace over. Trace over the word and say it at the same time. Move next to the word you have just written and write it out as you say it. Turn the page over and write the word as you say it, and then check that you have spelt it correctly. If this is easy, do the same process for two different words at the same time. Once you have written all your words this way and feel confident, miss out the tracing and copying or the tracing alone and just write the words.
Segmentation strategy	The splitting of a word into its constituent phonemes in the correct order to support spelling.
Quickwrite	Writing the words linked to the teaching focus with speed and fluency. The aim is to write as many words as possible within a time constraint. Pupils can write words provided by the teacher or generate their own examples. For example, in two minutes write as many words as possible with the /iz/ phoneme. This can be turned into a variety of competitive games including working in teams and developing relay race approaches.
Drawing around the word to show the shape	Draw around the words making a clear distinction in size where there are ascenders and descenders. Look carefully at the shape of the word and the letters in each box. Now try to write the word making sure that you get the same shape. 

<p>Drawing an image around the word</p>	<p>This strategy is all about making a word memorable. It links to meaning in order to try to make the spelling noticeable.</p>  <p>You can't use this method as your main method of learning spellings, but it might work on those that are just a little more difficult to remember.</p>
<p>Words without vowels</p>	<p>This strategy is useful where the vowel choices are the challenge in the words. Write the words without the vowels and pupils have to choose the correct grapheme to put in the space. For example, for the word <i>field</i>:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">f ____ ld</p>
<p>Pyramid words</p>	<p>This method of learning words forces you to think of each letter separately.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> p py pyr pyra pyram pyrami pyramid </p> <p>You can then reverse the process so that you end up with a diamond.</p>
<p>Other strategies</p>	<p>Other methods can include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rainbow writing. Using coloured pencils in different ways can help to make parts of words memorable. You could highlight the tricky parts of the word or write the tricky part in a different colour. You could also write each letter in a different colour, or write the word in red, then overlay in orange, yellow and so on. • Making up memorable 'silly sentences' containing the word • Saying the word in a funny way – for example, pronouncing the 'silent' letters in a word • Clapping and counting to identify the syllables in a word.

LCWC and spellingframe are two great online spelling programmes that many children enjoy.

<https://spellingframe.co.uk/>

<http://www.ictgames.com/mobilePage/lcwc/index.html>

