



St. Stephen's Primary Homework Guidance

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Is my child required to read every week day?

It is imperative that children read as much possible as this will improve reading skills and vocabulary. If the children have some choice in reading material, they are more likely to see it as an enjoyable experience rather than a chore. Reading will support every area of the curriculum.

2. Which books should my child read?

If your child is part of an intervention group they will have a specific reading book with associated sound or vocabulary cards. It is important that the children practise the sounds/words in the pack before reading the book.

All other children will have a choice of either choosing a book from school or reading a book from home.

Please record the chosen book in the reading diary.

3. How can I support my child with reading?

If your child is in an intervention group then you can help them with the sounds / words they need to learn and then hear them read. If you would like some help in doing this, please contact Lisa Barnett.

If your child is choosing a book from school or home there are questions that you can ask them to support comprehension and help them with new vocabulary. If you would like some ideas on different types of questions please see attached.

4. How is spelling taught?

The school uses the scheme Read, Write, Inc. Children are all on different levels depending on spelling ages and assessments. The children are taught the different sounds made by individual and groups of letters. They are also taught 'red' words which can only be learnt by memory. Furthermore, they learn rules associated with spelling.

Each child has a spelling book which is sent home every week so they can learn the sounds, patterns and rules.

5. Do you test spelling?

The children's spelling is assessed through focus marking. We want children to be able to apply the new rules or spelling patterns in their work. Furthermore, we have dictations or tests depending on the children's levels.

6. Do I sit with my child while they do homework?

We do ask you to do this when they are reading. However, on the whole children in Year 3 upwards should be completing homework independently. The work is set to assess if they have retained information and to reinforce concepts and skills. Please allow your child to complete the homework independently and if they are unable to complete it write a note in the homework book. It is important that the teacher knows when a child has had difficulties.

There are exceptions. We may ask you to play a game with your child, ask to reinforce a method or take them to a library to pick project books. You may have been to parent training in a certain subject and have been asked by the teacher to reinforce some learning at home.

7. Can I help my child with target work?

Yes. It is very useful to reinforce the learning of targets at home. E.g. learning of number bonds, multiplication and division facts or talking about connectives in writing. If you are unsure how you can help please contact the teacher who can provide resources.

8. If the teacher sets different levels of homework, can I get my child to try one that they have not been set?

If your child is completing all their homework quickly and accurately and feel they could cope with the harder examples, please inform the teacher. If your child cannot complete the homework as it is too difficult, again it is important to inform the teacher. On both occasions, the teacher will make further assessments when they come into school. It may put a child off homework if they feel they have to always complete more than their friends!

9. Should I provide extra homework for my child?

Children learn in many different ways. If you would like them to learn more, try to make it informal and fun. Card/ computer games and board games are a great way of reinforcing maths whilst allowing children to read comics also has great benefits. Visits to museums and exhibitions can also provide opportunities for learning. Furthermore, other physical activities are important to support children's general well-being and development e.g. visits to the park.