



Homework Policy

Approved by: The Governing Body

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For the Children:

Why Do We Have Homework?

- ✚ It provides you with the opportunity to share your learning experiences with your family
- ✚ It helps you become a more confident learner
- ✚ It teaches you to learn for yourself
- ✚ It helps you properly understand what you have been learning in school
- ✚ It prepares you for learning, work and life!

What Kind of Homework Can You Expect?

Some educators have said that we learn:

10% of what we **read**

20% of what we **hear**

30% of what we **see**

50% of what we **see and hear**

70% of what we **talk about with others**

95% of what we **teach someone else**

So, we will set you a range of homework challenges to cater for different learning needs:

The Takeaway Homework Menu

In the summer term of reception and at the start of each half term in years 1, you will be given a Takeaway Homework Menu tailor-made to your year group and topic. You will be given a date towards the end of the half term when the work needs to be completed and by that time you need to have completed a starter, main and a dessert to make a whole meal. In year 1, side orders focus on the basic skills. The takeaway menu will include maths, writing and topic related homework.

Basic skills

In every year group, we will ask you to practise basic skills such as times tables, number bonds, handwriting, phonics, grammar and spellings. This is to help you if you have a particular gap in your learning and would benefit from a little extra practise at home. We will ask you to complete tasks using Spelling Shed and Maths Shed ('Ed Shed'). Booklets might also be sent home for you to complete.

If you lose your Ed Shed Login, please talk to your class teacher and they will give you the details.

Reading

Reading at home is incredibly important, whether it is reading with an adult (listening to them read to you or reading to them) or reading independently. We want you to read for pleasure and also to practise your reading skills. There is an expectation set by the Department of Education that children read every day as part of homework. We support this and will provide you with age appropriate reading books. In addition to this, you can choose extra books from the huge selection in the school library and class libraries.

Ask an adult to read to you every day if possible. Reading aloud is essential in helping you become readers – **and not just in the early stages**, even when you are able to read silently to yourself. The greater the variety of words, sentences and texts the brain has in its archive the better able it is to make sense of new texts... And the better you can read. If you have no-one to read to you, go to our website and find the audio stories to listen to.

Phase 1

We will send home reading books for an adult to read to you and reading books that we want you to read to an adult. We will also send home sounds, tricky words and word lists to help you become independent readers. We will communicate with your parent using a reading diary and Tapestry.

Phase 2

We will send home a book we have chosen and you will take home a book that you have chosen. We need you to log your reading in your reading diary. We will also give you reading homework to complete so that you can practise your reading skills. In the second part of the autumn term, the year 2 reading challenge will begin, and in spring term year 1 begin their reading challenge.

Phase 3

You will be taking part in the Book a Week reading challenge! We will give you a booklet with instructions and a list of the types of books we would like you to read. It is still important that an adult reads to you. In addition to the reading challenge, you will also be set reading tasks.

Phase 4

You will be taking part in the reading challenge! We will give you a booklet with instructions and a list of the types of books we would like you to read. It is still important that an adult reads to you. In addition to the reading challenge, we will give you reading comprehension tasks at least once a fortnight.

If you need support with reading at home, talk to your class teacher and they will help you overcome any problems.

Maths

Maths homework will help you improve memory and thinking skills. Being able to think critically and logically is essential to educational success. It is also important to have a good memory for the large amounts of information that you will have to consume throughout your time in education. Maths homework allows you to practise maths skills which will make you a more confident learner. It will also help you to prepare for future learning. When you are older, it helps you to prepare for tests and exams.

Phase 1

We will start to send home maths games and puzzles in term 2 via Tapestry and in term 3 the homework menu has maths activities for you to do.

Phase 2

We want you to practise your key maths skills. We will set you challenges to complete on Maths Shed and ask you to practise number bonds and times tables using songs.

Phase 3

When you are in years 3 and 4 you will be set regular maths homework. We also want you to practise your basic skills, such as multiplication tables – some of this will be on paper and some of this will be using Maths Shed.

Phase 4

When you are in years 5 and 6 you will be set weekly maths homework. This will be put on Google Classroom for you to access. You can also take home a paper version, which your teacher will give you. We will also send some questions from your basic skills test so that you can have another try at them. Don't forget to continue to practise your multiplication tables – you can use Maths Shed for this.

If you need support with maths at home, talk to your class teacher and they will help you overcome any problems.

What if You Get Stuck with Your Homework?



Don't panic! If you're stuck this means that...

- You have realised that you don't know/can't do something!
- You now know you are going to learn something that you didn't know before!
- You are going to find out strategies for what to do when you are stuck - the most important lifetime skill of them all!



When You Are Stuck:

- ✓ Don't walk away from the problem - be determined!
- ✓ Think about what you already know and how it can help you!
- ✓ Find out what bit of the homework is giving you problems (challenges)!
- ✓ Talk to someone about your homework (your parents, friends and most of all your teacher)!
- ✓ Come along to our homework club!

To Help You Complete Your Homework, You Have to Ask Yourself Some Questions:

- ❖ *Where do you work best?*
- ❖ *When is the best time for you to do your homework?*
- ❖ *How do you learn best?*



If you don't know that answer to some of these questions, **talk to your parents and/or teacher and they will advise you.**

If I Don't Do My Homework.....?

We want you to want to do your homework because it will help you to improve. We will try to make homework interesting and rewarding, and maybe even fun!

However, if you are unable to do your homework we will support you in the following ways:

- Provide a homework club during school time
- Discuss with you why you are unable to complete your work and support you in other ways
- Talk with your parents so that they can see why this homework has been set and how they can help

How Will You Know What We Think of Your Homework?

We think it is very important that we give you feedback about what you have done and what you could do better. So...

- We will mark your homework.
- We will celebrate homework by sharing it with others in the class and school.
- We will display homework so that we can all enjoy your work.
- We will use the experiences and knowledge gained through class work, book discussions and other activities within school time.

For the parents:

Reading to your child

- **It won't cost you a penny to entertain your child with a book.** The Ipswich libraries are free to join and the school has plenty of books that can be borrowed.
- **A child is never too old to be read to.** It is essential that as the children get older, they continue to develop their familiarisation of new words, sentence structures and texts.
- **Use audio books.** Children have access to our extensive library of audio books, with matching text. See our Children's page 'Free Audio Books' on our website
- **Children love it!** 85% of children surveyed said that they love it when their parents read to them and view it as special time.

Tips

- **Try and find time every day.** A child that is read to has more than twice as many words in their vocabulary as a child who isn't. Studies show that they tend to be less anxious at school and achieve significantly better than children who are not read to.
- **Remove phones and other distractions.** Turn your phone off and create a quiet environment. Share the book and sit closely so that the child can see the text and the pictures if there are any.
- **Let your child interrupt if they have questions about the text or pictures.** You can do this too. It is important that children see the link between reading and thinking.

See our homework help section on our website: www.cliffordroadschool.org.uk/homework-help

In a nutshell:

If your child is in reception:

Term 1:

- Read every day **to** your child – stories and nonfiction books
- Practise reading together using the 'phonic books'
- Sounds will be sent home to learn weekly
- Tricky words will be sent home fortnightly
- Word lists will come home from November onwards as required

Term 2:

- Read every day **to** your child – stories and nonfiction books
- Practise reading together using the 'phonic books'
- Alternative spelling sounds will be sent home
- Tricky words will be sent home
- Maths activities and ideas will be sent home via tapestry

Term 3:

- Read every day **to** your child – stories and nonfiction books
- Practise reading together using the 'phonic books'
- A homework menu will be sent home
- Basics skills practised at home

Any concerns, please speak to your child's class teacher or communicate with us via Tapestry.

If your child is in years 1 and 2:

- Read every day **to** your child – stories and nonfiction books
- Practise reading together - listen to your child and help them. Record their reading in the reading diary.
- Support your child with the school's summer reading challenge.
- Spelling, handwriting and maths basic skills will also be sent home to help address gaps. Teachers set challenges using Maths Shed and Spelling Shed.

Any concerns or questions please speak to your child's class teacher or write a note in the reading diary.

If your child is in years 3 and 4:

- Support your child achieve the reading challenge.
- Read **to** your child as often as possible – stories and nonfiction books
- Practise reading together – listen to them and support them to improve their fluency and expression. Talk about the book.
- Homework is set weekly and will include maths, reading comprehension, grammar, spelling and handwriting where necessary.
- Please log in to Google Classroom, Maths Shed and Spelling Shed to see if your child has work set.

Any concerns or questions please speak to your child's class teacher or write a note in the homework book or reading challenge booklet.

If your child is in years 5 and 6:

- Support your child achieve the reading challenge.
- Read **to** your child as often as possible – stories and nonfiction books.
- Practise reading together – listen to them and support them to improve their fluency and expression. Talk about the book.
- Homework is set weekly and will include maths, reading comprehension, grammar, spelling and handwriting where necessary.
- Please log in to Google Classroom, Maths Shed and Spelling Shed to see if your child has work set.

Any concerns or questions, please speak to your child's class teacher or write a note in the homework book or reading challenge.