

Priorsford Primary School

Primary 1 – Primary 3 Homework Guidelines



September 2023

Primary 1-Primary 3 Homework

At Priorsford Primary School we want to foster an enquiring mind and a love of learning in all our children. We want to promote opportunities to develop creativity, imagination and independence. In addition, for their emotional and mental wellbeing, we firmly believe that our children need time outside school to rest, relax and play.

We want parents/carers to be involved in their child's learning so that they are aware of the skills and knowledge that their child is developing in school and can support and reinforce this learning. With this in mind, we have updated our homework procedures for Primary 1 to 3 to provide a level of structure to homework but also to give flexibility for those families who would prefer a choice in when and how their child learns outside school.

Each week a selection of activities will be sent home to give you an idea of what your child has been learning. Encourage your child to chat about what they have been learning and about how they feel they are progressing. e.g. did you find this easy, a little or very tricky? How did you learn to do this?

We value your input as partners in monitoring, developing and assessing your child's learning. Please make use of the yellow record book in your child's homework bag to comment on how you feel they have approached homework tasks, your thoughts on their progress and any concerns you may have. Similarly, staff will comment when required.

Please find below some general guidelines for homework:

Primary 1

Homework to include:

Reading - regular, short reading practice is recommended. Reading books will be sent home in due course to consolidate learning in school. Please also use your own or school library books in addition to reading book if necessary. Library books will be chosen by your child and will begin before October.

Each week your child will bring home their books to share. These can be used to develop reading strategies by chatting about the events, characters, setting etc. (see question sheet over for some ideas to make your child think more deeply). Remember to return all books to school. Any lists of words sent home may be kept at home to revise/practise.

Spelling - practice of phonics/sounds - as sounds are taught an information sheet will be sent home weekly to build up a phonics book to practise regularly. At times throughout the year word banks will come home to practise.

Maths - Mathletics- an online resource to help consolidate maths learning in school. Games will be assigned regularly. Children will be shown how to use this in school.

Topic - Each term the children will explore a topic. Please see the topic sheet from the teacher which will give you an idea of what your child can explore/learn about. This sheet also has some ideas for activities at home.

Primary 2 and Primary 3

Homework to include:

Reading - regular, short reading practice is recommended. As well as these set reading tasks, please feel free to use your own or school library books to encourage an enjoyment of reading. Again, please use the question sheet overleaf for ideas to encourage further reflection and discussion.

Spelling - weekly lists of words will be sent home to practise the sound taught that week. Suggestions of activities will be sent home with ideas on how to practise the spelling. Oral practice of spelling words is recommended.

Maths - Mathletics- an online resource to help consolidate maths learning in school. Games will be assigned regularly. Children will be shown how to use this in school. This resource provides motivating and stimulating games to consolidate numeracy concepts of addition, subtraction, multiplication, division and learning tables, which will support all aspects of numeracy and maths in class. Children can access Mathletics at home using a QR code and they will also be given opportunities to use Mathletics during their ICT sessions at school.

Extra Challenge - e.g. language or project activity, art or presentation task linked to the class topic. These extra challenge activities may be planned as extended tasks and last a few weeks.

Weekly assignments are given out on a Monday and returned on a Friday.

Please remember that homework should never cause unnecessary stress to either the children or parents/carers. Your children work hard at school every day and should have time outside school to enjoy physical activity and outdoor play.

If you have any concerns or questions about your child's homework, please write a note for the teacher in your child's yellow reading record.

“There is a growing body of research that shows that young children's access to nature and outdoor play is positively associated with improved self-esteem, physical health, development of language skills and disposition to learning.”

(‘My World Outdoors’ 2016, Care Inspectorate)

Questions to ask to encourage reflection and discussion

Before reading:

Prior knowledge: What do you think the story/book/text is about?
What do you know about...?
Have you ever...?

During reading:

- | | |
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| • What do you think ... might do now? | prediction |
| • How do you think the chapter might end? | prediction |
| • Why do you think the girl said that? | explanation |
| • Can you explain how a.... works? | explanation |
| • What do you like about this person? | explanation |
| • Tell me why...? | explanation |
| • How does the character feel about...? | infer |
| • What happened after...? | recap |
| • Tell me what happened in your own words | summarise |
| • What might have happened if..? | reflection |
| • How do you know...? Can you show me in the text? | locating information |
| • How would you feel if it happened to you? | empathy |

Question stems - to clarify understanding

- What makes you think that?
- What do you think?
- What words give you that impression?
- How do you feel about ...?
- Can you explain why?
- Do you agree with's opinion?
- Do you like the bit where..?
- I wonder if ...?
- Is there anything that puzzles you?
- I'm not sure what I think about...?
- This bit reminds me of ...
- I would love/hate to have that happen to me. Would you?
- Are there any patterns you notice? (familiar story structure/ images)
- I like the way the write has...
- I wonder why the writer has decided to ...