

John 10:10 – 'I have come that they may have life and have it to the full'.
Inspired by John 10:10, we strive for all members of our community to learn and live
'Life in all its Fullness'

HOMEWORK POLICY

Our Curriculum Vision

At St. Peter's, we believe in providing our children with a meaningful, memorable and engaging curriculum that goes beyond that of the National Curriculum and fully enables *'Life in all its Fullness'*. Our curriculum is underpinned by our Christian Values of Celebration, Collaboration, Respect, Responsibility, Service and Truth.

Our curriculum ethos is inspired by our heartfelt vision of *'Life in all its Fullness'* for all members of our community. We strive to plan and provide curriculum opportunities that instil a love of learning and enable all children to learn for life.

Homework Rationale

At St. Peter's, we believe that homework is a valuable part of a child's *'life in all fullness'* education. Through the provision of homework, we aim to:

- Consolidate skills, knowledge and understanding linked to the taught curriculum
- Support children's engagement and interest in the wider curriculum
- Develop life-long skills, which children can transfer to secondary school and beyond
- Provide opportunities for parents and children to learn and work together

What Homework will be set?

Homework activities are set in line with the taught curriculum, including opportunities for consolidation work and pre-teaching. Homework tasks, which will vary according to the needs of the child, will include the following activities.

English:

- Reading, including independent reading and shared reading with an adult.
- Respond to Reading activities, including reading diary comments and completion of the reading challenges.
- Spellings, which will be tested each week and linked to a specific spelling rule/pattern in line with year group expectations.
- Spelling, punctuation and grammar tasks, linked to the taught curriculum, set on Spagastic.

Maths:

- Maths tasks and learning videos, linked to the taught curriculum, set on My Maths and/or Power Maths.

- Multiplication activities/challenges set and readily available on Timetables Rockstars

Wider curriculum

- Project work linked to the wider curriculum, including research, presentations, personal study and creative tasks

Wider Homework Opportunities

Through events such as parents’ evening, class teachers may suggest additional areas of learning for children to work on and practise at home. This might include practise typing or letter formation to support handwriting, for example. A full range of learning materials are also available on DB Primary for children to access at any time; these include videos and games linked to the wider curriculum, including online safety.

To support children at the early stages of reading, we deliver the Read Write Inc. synthetic phonics programme to teach children to read. Parents have access to free phonics resources, including eBooks, practice sheets and parent films, which are available to view and download from the Oxford Owl website. Some children will have specific sounds to practise at home, alongside their reading.

Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) will work alongside their class teacher to create an SEND Learning Journey, documented through a journal. This will include small-step, personalised targets, enabling child to achieve in all areas of the curriculum. Targets and progress summaries will be shared with parents every half term – supporting families to celebrate and consolidate this work at home.

Underpinned by our vision of *‘life in all fullness’*, we strive to grow the whole child and fully value children’s participation in external clubs and life activities. We acknowledge that family life is busy and, where children’s personal development is important to us, we aim to recognise and celebrate children’s wider achievements. We welcome children to share and celebrate their wider learning outcomes in school, including club awards and recounts of their adventures.

How much homework should my child complete?

Homework is set by the class teacher on our online platform, DB Primary. Homework is set every Friday, providing children with one week to practise for their spelling test, which is generally administered on a Friday morning.

As children become older, they should be encouraged to sustain their concentration for longer periods of time and to work with increasing independence.

The table below features a list of homework activities and the suggested time allocation, according to age expectations.

<p style="text-align: center;">Lower School Years 3 and 4</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Upper School Years 5 and 6</p>

Reading: 10 minutes of daily reading, including independent reading or shared reading with an adult.	Reading: 20 minutes of daily independent reading, including opportunities to talk about the content you have read with an adult.
Reading activity: 10 minutes a week. This may include a short reading record or completion of a reading challenge, supported by an adult.	Reading activity: 20 minutes a week. This may include a book review or independent completion of a reading challenge.
Spellings: 25 minutes a week of spelling practice, including opportunities to rehearse with an adult and independent use of 'look, cover and check' approach.	Spellings: 25 minutes a week of spelling practice, including opportunities to apply key words as part of a spoken or written sentence.
1 optional task will be set on Spagtastic to consolidate and practise grammar, punctuation and grammar skills.	2 optional tasks will be set on Spagtastic to consolidate and practise grammar, punctuation and grammar skills.
1 task will be set on My Maths and/or Power Maths to consolidate and practise an area of maths, linked to the taught curriculum. Teaching videos are also available to support task completion.	2 tasks will be set on My Maths and/or Power Maths to consolidate and practise an area of maths, linked to the taught curriculum. Teaching videos are also available to support task completion.
1 hour of project time every half term, linked to the wider curriculum.	2 hours of project time every half term, linked to the wider curriculum.

How will my child's homework be acknowledged?

Children's homework will be valued and acknowledged through positive reinforcement, including verbal feedback and special awards.

Class teachers and learning support assistants will monitor the reading diary, including celebration of children's home reading records. Certificates are awarded in assembly for completion of reading challenges, alongside other school librarian incentives. Children's spelling progress will be tracked through weekly spelling tests.

Our online programmes, including My Maths, Timetables Rockstars and Spagtastic, provide instant feedback. My Maths enables children to complete their set questions as many times as they would like, until they are successful. This online programme provides class teachers with an analysis, including the number of times each question was trialled, as well as individual and whole class feedback about children's achievement. This enables lessons and interventions to be planned accordingly. Children can also share their own self-evaluations, providing further information to their class teacher.

Project work will be valued through class presentations and celebration events.

How will staff at St. Peter's support this policy?

Class teachers will:

- provide a range of homework tasks and activities
- ensure that homework is purposeful and links to the taught curriculum
- ensure that homework is set consistently across classes (every Friday)
- give reasonable time for the completion of homework
- ensure that children have a clear understanding of the tasks involved
- adapt tasks in response to individual needs
- reward and praise children who regularly complete homework tasks
- communicate with parents about their child's progress
- provide additional guidance/support for parents
- establish opportunities for children to complete homework activities in school, where children are unable to complete at home

How can parents and families help?

At St. Peter's, we appreciate how important and valuable good home/school links are and the need for us all to work together to ensure a good education for all children. Homework involves parents and other adults – and there are many ways to help:

- Ask the children questions about what they are learning at school
- Play word and number games to consolidate learning
- Listen to your child read and discuss the books they have brought home
- Encourage your child to read words regularly
- Read what your child has written, and talk to them about their writing
- Test what has to be learned e.g. spellings
- Encourage your child to check over their work
- Help your child find out additional facts

Children are encouraged to:

- Attempt homework activities with a positive attitude
- Take pride in their presentation and content
- Talk about their school learning
- Speak to their teacher if they're unsure about the tasks
- Look after their reading books
- Try their best

Supporting Homework

When schools and families work together, children do better. The following top tips are recommended by our Parent Support Advisor. A detailed version of 'supporting homework' is available on the parent support page of our school website.

- *Make time:* Get involved in their homework tasks
- *Routine:* Have a timed routine at home and stick to it
- *Take an interest:* Ask questions about their learning and lend a hand
- *Remove distractions:* Create the best learning environment to help your child concentrate
- *Check it out:* Check their work and show an interest in the progress they are making
- *Give Praise:* If they have done the best they can, praise the effort not the outcome

If your child is struggling to complete their homework, contact the school and see what they can do to help.

Monitoring

The Headteacher and Governors on the RSC committee will review the policy, including the quality of homework provision, alongside the staff team.