

EPJS Homework Policy

The system is the same for every year group in the school, although year 6 will have occasions when they are given different homework. Homework should take about 30 minutes each night.

Homework will be given out on a Friday as follows:-

Mondays to Thursdays (30 minutes total each night):

- a. 10 minutes reading
- b. 10 minutes learning timestables (test on a Friday)
- c. 10 minutes learning spellings (test on a Friday)

Fridays:

30 minutes on project work

Reading

Reading regularly has been proven to have a great impact on the improvement of reading and writing. The more the children read, the more they are accessing a range of language and seeing how punctuation is used accurately, both of which will impact on their reading and writing. We would like the children to read for at least 10 minutes four times a week (more is great!), choosing a range of books, both fiction and non-fiction.

Please spend 10 minutes listening to your children read and/or reading to them and discussing the text. The discussion about the book is very important as this will help your child understand the meaning behind the words. There are some example questions on the school's website for you to use.

All children have a reading diary to record any reading that they do at home and in school. We will encourage them to be filling this in by themselves, though parents can fill it in when they have read to them/heard them read. In terms of communication for this all teachers will look at them on a set day and tick and initial/use a smiley face. This shows that they have seen the diary and checked how much reading has been recorded by each child. The children should be recording the name of the book and the amount they have read plus a comment about the book.

Learning Timestables.

The class will be given a timestable to learn each week. Every child needs to learn the given timestable.

Some children will be learning to recite the timestable e.g. $1 \times 2 = 2$, $2 \times 2 = 4$, $3 \times 2 = 6$ etc

Most will be able to answer random questions e.g. what is $3 \times 2?$, $8 \times 2?$ etc

Some children will be able to answer more challenging questions involving the given timestable e.g. $36 \div 2?$ How many 2s in 450? Half of 62? etc

It is down to the discretion of each year group how quickly they advance their children through each times table i.e. Year 3 may need to spend 2/3 weeks on the 2x table but Year 6 can move on after one week. There will be five questions in the test which will comprise of straightforward questions i.e. 2×4 , 3×2 . Children need to answer accurately and quickly to score a point. A further five questions will be division facts for that same times table i.e. $24 \div 2$. We will add in an extra five questions, on the same timestable, which will be more difficult and require them to use and apply their timestables i.e. Double 32.5, What is half of 234? etc.

Learning Spellings

We will use the bronze, silver and gold lists for the spellings, using the appropriate spellings for each year group (these lists run alongside the new National Curriculum and are lists of words which the children should know how to spell by a certain age.) Fifteen spellings will be sent home, chosen by each year group individually. There will be five words from the bronze list, five from the silver list and five from the gold list. Children will be expected to learn five or ten spellings (depending on their level) and their score will be marked out of however many they did. However, they can choose to learn all the spellings and try them in the test on Friday but still be marked out of the amount they were set. If some children are consistently getting all the spellings correct then we will have to think about how we extend them i.e. words which we identify as being mis-spelt often by a large number of children, words from their vocabulary books, etc. The emphasis is on knowing the spellings really thoroughly and using them correctly in their work.

Advantages

We know that children who read well, know their timetables thoroughly and spell accurately have a distinct advantage in school. These skills are best learnt little and often (hence 10 minutes of each every night) so make ideal homework tasks. Even some of our most able children struggle on occasions with these skills which is why we want all children to learn the same timestable and spellings **thoroughly**. They may revisit the timestable and spellings several times. The weekly tests will allow children, parents and teachers to monitor how successfully the children have learnt them. However, it is the application of these skills in work that is most important.

Topic

Children will be given a project which they have half a term to complete. After half term, the project will be brought in and shared with the rest of the class and the teacher will comment on this work, giving the children feedback on what they have done.

This is where the children will be able to be more creative and have some independent choice over what they do. It also allows them flexibility on how they manage their time e.g. they can do 30 minutes a week for six weeks, or the whole project in three hours in the half term holiday.

Expectations

We are going to reward children who bring their homework in, rather than discipline those who don't by giving out house merits. We need to reinforce to the children the importance of homework and the positive impact that it has on their learning.