



St John's C of E Primary School

Together we grow stronger

Headteacher Mr B Basinger-Adams Chair of Governors Mr J Alpin



How to help with home learning

Here are some useful tips for helping your child with their home learning. But remember, each family is different, each child is different – you must find what works best for you.

1. Be consistent:

- Identify set days and times that work in your family schedule, and stick to them.
- Encourage your child, be firm, but if your child is really not in the right frame of mind then don't push it – wait until they are calm and try again (later, or a different day).

2. Set up a good learning environment at home:

- Does your child work best when it is quiet, or with the radio on – whatever is best!
- Be organised, have all the 'equipment' at hand – do not give the excuse of 'getting something' for your child to then distract themselves.
- Ensure your child has had a snack / drink.
- Keep those who may distract them away from them at this time.

3. Your 'body language / words' really matter:

- Be positive with the effort your child is making.
- Be interested – honestly it really is ok to help (in fact it really sends an excellent hidden message to your child). But remember don't do the work for your child, support them. If you are unsure, ask your child 'how do you do it in class'.
- 10 minutes of undivided attention is better than 30 minutes in the same room.
- Don't get frustrated.
- Consider your own set of rewards (a smiley chart, etc).

4. Weekly Spellings:

- Copy out each word each day using the look, say, cover, write, check approach.
- Write a sentence for a few of the words.
- Please do 'test' your child – this can be on the way to school, where ever it suits.

5. Weekly Mental Maths:

- Do a few a day (a column).
- Practice times tables each day/week.

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6. PPTs (Personal Pupil Targets):

- These are personal to your child, targeted at your child's needs, so practising these will have a significant impact on your child's progress.
- If you ever want to know 'what else can I do to help my child' then practising these is a fantastic way to help your child.
- Writing: children write half a page on the 'theme' provided, demonstrating examples of their target....they should highlight their target.
- Maths: children write 10 examples of calculations/examples relating to their target.

7. Learning Log:

- Not a 'project' with a 'due date'.
- This is ongoing and social learning – children do something towards their learning log every few days, BUT they bring it in every day to share with a different person each day. This way they are the teacher each day and to someone new, and they learn something each day from a different person.....25 teachers in the room!
- There is no right or wrong – whatever your child wants to do in relation to the learning log set by the teacher is ok (internet research, artwork, poems, making something, etc).
- Because the learning is personal your child will find it easier to be self-motivated (a crucial skill) and the learning will be retained in their long-term memory much easier.

8. Reading 3 or 4 times a week:

- At a time that works for you.
- All reading is good reading – not just the school book.
- Be positive and patient.
- Take turns...it is ok for you to read as well as you are modelling the reading process.
- Ask your child some questions about what they have just read.
- Enjoy this special time together, once your child becomes an older teenager they may not want to spend this time with you...and you might miss these precious times together.

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