St Lawrence's VA Primary School

Homework

A Guide For Parents

St Lawrence's Church of England Primary School is committed to providing the best possible quality of education to every child. Our homework system is designed to ensure that parents and carers can also help to support their child's learning at home.

Parents, carers and other family members can, and do, make a real difference to children's education. When parents and schools work together, children do better. Children learn a great deal at nursery and school and you can add to that learning by supporting them at home as well! Showing an interest in their homework and talking to them about it helps them to learn. With support and encouragement, children find it easier to get into the homework habit!

Here are some handy tips to help your child complete their homework.

- *Have a timed routine for homework. Ask them to complete it before they watch TV or use a computer!*
- *Is the space quiet for them? If they have lots of distractions, they will probably find it difficult to complete.*
- *Ask them questions about the homework so that they know you are really interested in it.*
- *Give them lots of praise.*
- *Sometimes they may find the homework really tricky. If this is the case, try and encourage them to keep going and not give up straight away. This will help them to get in to good habits for ever! However, sometimes it is right for them to stop, especially if they have been trying for a while (20 – 30 minutes) ask them to stop. Then ask them to take it in to school to and ask the teacher to explain it. It is always best for the child to come and ask first as this will help to encourage them to be independent. If they still find it hard after this, come in and speak to the teacher – it will probably be something really easy to solve!*

What homework do we expect at St Lawrence's?

	What homework?	
Early years	• Phonics sheets • Maths and writing alternately	Phonics are the building blocks to early reading. It is really important to practise their letter sounds. You can also help by asking them what sounds objects around the home begins with! Building up basic maths and writing skills will give them a big head start too.
Year 1 and 2	• Spellings to learn • Maths consolidation • Reading	The spellings they will bring home may seem tricky but they are the words that the National Curriculum has said they need to learn. Don't worry if they don't get them straight away – keep trying! You can help by putting the words in sentences (the sillier the better) for them to learn how to use them too! Lots of reading is vital for their learning. They need to practise their fluency of reading, new words and talking about the book to show understanding. They may also have lots of tables to learn – always important!
Year 3 and 4	• Spellings to learn • Maths times tables • Reading	
Year 5 and 6	• Spellings to learn • Maths recall facts • Reading • A project choice • Sumdog challenge • Extra interventions	By year 5 and 6 they will have built up lots of new skills. One of those is to be more independent in their own learning. Projects really help them decide what they'd like to learn about and how it can be presented. You can help by asking them what they are going to do and always asking them to produce the best that they can.

Here are some useful resources for helping with homework.

www.bbc.co.uk/learning

www.bbc.co.uk/schools

www.channel4learning.com

www.direct.gov.uk/currriculum

www.direct.gov.uk/en/educationandlearning

www.direct.gov.uk.kids

www.nextgenerationlearn.org.uk/At-Home

www.parentlineplus.org.uk

www.bbc.co.uk/schools/parents/helping

This is by no means an exhaustive list and is simply an offer of websites available.

Happy Homework!