

Home Learning

At Harbertonford C of E Primary School

a guide

Updated: September 2020

Why have home learning?

This home learning guide outlines what is expected of teachers, pupils and parents regarding home learning or homework activities (as opposed to Blended Learning, which is the term used to cover day to day learning that may be delivered online if a child is at home). At Harbertonford, we feel that home learning is an important element of children's primary education. It encourages pupils to rehearse, reinforce or extend what they have learnt at school and to share their learning at home. Undertaking home learning supports pupils in making good progress and prepares them to become independent learners. It also helps pupils to manage their own time effectively.

When is home learning set?

In all year groups, typically homework should be set on Friday to be returned the following Friday. This allows weekdays and a weekend to complete the activities set. (Spelling practice may run from Tuesday to Friday.) If home learning is not returned by the following Friday, Key Stage 2 pupils will be given an additional opportunity to complete the activities set in 'Homework Club' on Friday lunchtimes at 12.15; pupils may also use Homework Club to undertake homework on the day it is set.

What will home learning consist of?

Home learning should take approximately 20 minutes to an hour a week, depending on the task, age of pupils or levels of enthusiasm!

Early Years - Little Owls and Owls:

Younger pupils are encouraged to share books with an adult regularly, building up to 'little and often' reading practice as appropriate for their stage. They will also be set regular 'fun finding out' homework linked to new learning coming up. Mr Owl may be taken home to encourage diary writing!

Year 1 and 2 - Falcons:

Reading: Falcons are encouraged to read to an adult regularly. We suggest up to 5 times a week - little and often is best. Teachers will monitor how often pupils are reading at home and books will be

changed, with adult support, every Monday - more often on request. Year 2 pupils are encouraged to change their books regularly.

Spelling: Falcons will bring home a weekly spelling list consisting of spelling patterns and common misconception words. It is important that they practice these at home. They should practice their spellings alongside Letterjoin cursive handwriting style.

Maths: Falcons should practice 2, 5 and 10 times tables at least. They can use Times Tables Rockstars or practice without the use of screens in any way that works - even singing! Pupils may be set a maths activity sheet instead, as appropriate.

Year 3 and 4 - Kestrels:

Reading: Kestrels are encouraged to read to an adult regularly. We suggest up to 5 times a week - little and often is best. Teachers will monitor how often pupils are reading at home and books are changed independently, or with support where needed. Once pupils have graduated from the reading scheme, they can read books from their level in the Accelerated Reader scheme at home and will quiz in school.

Spelling: Kestrels will bring home a weekly spelling list (Tuesdays) consisting of spelling patterns and common misconception words. It is important that they practice these at home. They should practice their spellings alongside Letterjoin cursive handwriting style.

Maths:

Times tables: Kestrels will continue to practice the 2, 5 and 10 times tables. They should practice 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11 and 12 times tables and related division facts throughout Year 3 and 4, as appropriate. They can use Times Tables Rockstars or practice them without the use of screens in any way that works - even singing! (Please note that the Year 4 children will sit the Statutory Times Table Test in June.)

Year 5 and 6 - Eagles:

Reading: Eagles are encouraged to read regularly. We suggest up to 5 times a week. Teachers will monitor how often pupils are reading at home and books are changed independently. They can read books from their level in the Accelerated Reader scheme at home and will quiz in school.

Spelling: Eagles will bring home a weekly spelling list consisting of spelling patterns and common misconception words. It is important that they practice these at home. They should practice their spellings alongside Letterjoin cursive handwriting style.

Grammar and Punctuation:

Pupils will be set a short, weekly grammar and/or punctuation task.

Maths:

Times tables: Eagles will practice all times tables and the related division facts. The aim is speed and fluency. They can use Times Tables Rockstars or practice them without the use of screens in any way that works - even singing!

Holiday Home Learning:

Sometimes holiday home learning will be set at the end of a term and pupils will be encouraged to learn about their new, upcoming topic in a creative way over the break. They will be able to present homework in any way they choose - maybe a painting, presentation, video, collage, photograph... These can be presented to their peers and celebrated with the introduction of the new topic.

Checking:

Home learning will be either marked as a class or checked by a member of staff. Teachers will monitor work to identify any concerns or gaps in understanding and children will be given appropriate feedback regarding how well they have done and where (if) they need to improve.

Home support:

Please listen to your child/ren read as often as possible, talking about the book and story as you go. Parents are encouraged to guide and support children with their weekly home learning tasks but should expect the child to work as independently as possible. Holiday home learning, however, could be a joint project worked on together.

If there are any issues with home learning, please try to avoid getting frustrated! (It is so easy to do!) If your child is taking considerably more than the recommended time please stop and contact your child's class teacher who will be happy to offer help or support as needed.

Thank you for your support.