



# Abberley Parochial V.C. Primary School

*Rooted and ground in love*

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## Homework policy

Reviewed: September 2022

Next review: September 2023

At Abberley Parochial V.C. Primary School we believe that homework encourages independence and provides an opportunity to revisit learning which has taken place in the classroom. It also provides further opportunities for enhanced communication between the school and home and the opportunity for teachers to see if pupils have retained the skills developed in school. These principles are in harmony with our school vision, to be 'rooted and grounded in love' and to enable a greater depth of comprehension of the world and all that is around us.

We recognise that children who attend Abberley lead busy and full lives; many attending after school clubs and additional activities in and out of school and giving of their best each day they are here. We endeavour to provide homework as an opportunity to add value to children's learning and not simply to give them tasks to complete. To achieve this, homework tasks are considerably pitched to provide challenge yet be independently achievable. Feedback should be given on the outcome and progress being made in order for homework to be valuable.

### Reading

Pupils are expected to read for twenty minutes every day and regularly to an adult at home. Children throughout the school are provided with a school diary and a book from our school reading scheme or collection.

For children in reception to year 2, we use the Collins Little Wandle reading scheme. The children will bring their weekly decodable book home on a Wednesday to share their reading with parents. Each Monday they will visit the school library, where they select a book to bring home for the week. This is their sharing book and will not be fully decodable for them independently, but is a chance to share a book together and for the children to develop good habits and a love of literature. We encourage parents to comment on their child's reading.

From years 3-6 parents and teachers should sign diaries weekly to confirm they have reviewed them and acknowledged comments made by parents. Parental comments are not a way for the school to check up on parents, but more a channel of communication for the family and school to work together to enhance a child's reading development.

From year 3 to year 6, children can approach reading with more independence, but we still expect daily reading. We encourage parents to continue to sign pupil diaries and to listen to their children as often as possible.

### **Spellings**

Spelling lists will be sent home to practise every week, except where there are exceptional circumstances, such as school events or part weeks. Each week, children should prepare to be tested on their spellings.

In year 1 and for some children in year 2, pupil's spellings will be linked to their phonics learning. At Abberley Primary School, we follow the 'Little Wandle Letter and Sounds' phonics scheme. Further details can be found in the English section of the school website: [learning-curriculum-English](#).

Children in years 2 to 6 will be assigned spellings from the spelling shed scheme to ensure that they continue to be taught the rules and structures of words. Children will be set assignments on the EdShed website, for which they all have individual logins, in order for them to practice these spellings through a variety of games. Spellings will be adapted for individual pupils where necessary to help them recall key words.

### **Maths**

Pupils in year 1 should be practising their times tables and number bonds weekly. Tasks will be set by the class teacher on occasion and will be communicated through our weekly newsletter.

Children in years 2 to 6 should complete one test in their mental maths book weekly. These books are pitched to the children's ability, meaning that the children should be able to access most of the questions independently. Children should complete this in a quiet area where they can concentrate as analysis of homework will be used to inform the teaching and learning of pupils in school, so it is important that they complete tasks to the best of their ability.

Mental arithmetic books will be sent home each Friday and the assigned test should be completed and the book returned on Wednesday. Opportunities for correction and feedback will often form a part of Friday's maths lessons in school, so it is essential that books are returned.

Children are also set 15 games to play on TTRockStars. This should take them approximately 20 minutes to complete. The tables set will be ones of which the children need to develop their knowledge and understanding.

### **Year 5 and 6**

In preparation for the transfer to the senior school, additional tasks are set from time to time in years 5 and 6. This may involve research or finishing off work started at school. In such circumstances this will be clearly communicated in pupil diaries. Children should not find these tasks too overwhelming. Parents are encouraged to communicate with teachers if they feel that this is the case or if tasks are taking longer than thirty minutes of focused effort on a single piece in a week.

### Communication

We recognise that on occasions it may be difficult for children to complete homework tasks due to out of school commitments. If this is the case, we would ask parents to communicate this with the class teacher to avoid any misunderstanding.

Please use the pupil diaries to update teachers regarding how children approach their homework. For more urgent matters, please e-mail the school office to let us know [office@abberley.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:office@abberley.worcs.sch.uk)

### Non-compliance

We are eager for all our pupils to benefit from the opportunity of homework and we expect parents to support their children by prompting them and providing a suitable environment conducive to concentration. However, children who do not complete homework will not be punished as non-completion of homework is not a punishable behaviour in our school behaviour policy. In each parental report, feedback will be given to parents outlining pupil's apparent effort and attainment in their homework. Pupils who do not complete their maths and spellings homework will miss out on the opportunities that homework offers:

- They are unlikely to make the same degree of progress.
- They are unlikely to develop the same level of discipline and independent approach to learning.
- Their individual needs will be less likely to be highlighted in the planning and teaching in lessons.
- Rather than reviewing previous errors, they will work towards tasks during workshop sessions.

### Term time holidays

It is not the policy of the school to set work for children who are taken on holiday during term time.

### Sickness

If children are sick in the short-term, but are well enough to learn, we encourage them to complete their weekly homework. For longer-term sicknesses school staff will endeavour to support pupils through assigning homework tasks and providing feedback.