

Tips for good homework habits

- ✓ Find a quiet place at home for homework. It should have a flat surface, good lighting, and the right equipment (pens, pencils, ruler, scissors, glue).
- ✓ Be aware of modern teaching methods (e.g. in maths, like long division) so you can support your child in the same way we do at school.
- ✓ Plan a homework timetable together and agree on when homework will be done.
- ✓ Offer your child a healthy snack before starting, to help them concentrate.
- ✓ Talk with your child about their homework and how it links to what they are learning in class.
- ✓ Turn off the TV. Quiet background music is fine if it helps them focus.
- ✓ If your child is stuck, don't just give them the answer. Instead, guide them to look up information, use a dictionary, or try another strategy.
- ✓ Please use the same methods we teach in school, as using different approaches can confuse your child.
- ✓ Remember: homework is for learning and practice. Keep it positive, enjoyable, and a special time to share together.

Courage: be brave; believe you can	Compassion: show care and understanding for everyone	Responsibility: make good choices because your actions matter	Respect: value everyone and everything in how you listen, speak and in what you do
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Homework will help your child:

- ✓ learn how to organise and manage their time, developing good study habits
- ✓ take more **responsibility** for their own learning
- ✓ consolidate and reinforce what they have learned in school
- ✓ have **courage** in building resilience to deal with frustrations, overcome difficulties and solve problems
- ✓ inform parents and carers of their learning, and offer an opportunity for support, encouragement and involvement from parents and carers

Halsford Park Primary School



Homework Guide for Parents and Carers 2026/2027

Homework Expectations

For Year 1-5, homework and/or instructions for the will be shared on Google Classroom.

If you would like a hard copy, please ask your child's teacher.

	Reading	Spelling	English	Maths	Creative Project
Early Years	Two books sent home: one to support their phonics phase, when they reach red level of reading, and one of their own choice. These will also be available on Oxford Owl. More information to follow on this.		Children are provided with activities and ideas over the year to support English and Maths learning in school. Sound wallet sent home with flashcards to practise weekly.		
Year 1	Two books will be sent home: one to support their phonics phase and one of their own choice. We encourage children to read their phonics book every day.		Set every other week and shared during class time.	Set every other week on Purple Mash and looked at by their class teacher.	Suggested creative activities to be shared in class at the end of the half term.
Year 2	Two books will be sent home: one Read Write Inc book where appropriate, and one of their own choice. We encourage children to read their phonics book every day.	A selection of words that we have been working on in the classroom.	Set every other Friday. Peer/teacher marked in class the following Friday.	Set every other Friday. Peer/teacher marked in class the following Friday.	Half-termly projects linked to learning. These will be celebrated in class.
Years 3, 4 & 5	20 minutes, five times a week.	A termly overview will be sent home and will contain a weekly break-down of the spellings and rules taught.	Set every Friday, due the following Friday. This will be either peer, self or teacher assessed. In Years 3 and 4, the maths homework will include Times Tables Rock Stars battles.		Half-termly projects linked to learning. These will be celebrated in class.
Year 6	As above	As above	Each child will complete a Learning by Questions assessment for maths and GPS. Teachers will then set personalised homework on LBQ website.		

Reading

Reading at home with a parent or carer may not always feel like "homework," but it is one of the most powerful ways to support your child's learning. Research shows that children who develop strong reading skills before leaving Primary School achieve better in all subjects at secondary school and beyond.

Every child should read with an adult at home each day. This could be:

- Sharing a bedtime story
- Setting aside a quiet time for reading
- Exploring a variety of texts, such as storybooks, non-fiction, e-books, websites, leaflets, or newspapers

Each reading session should be recorded in the purple homework book. To help with book discussions, there are **VIPERS bookmarks** (Vocabulary, Inference, Prediction, Explanation, Retrieval, and Sequence/Summarise) available on our school website.

Daily reading is not just practice — it's a chance to enjoy stories together, build confidence, and set your child up for success in every subject.

What if we are busy and my child does not have time to complete the homework?

We completely understand that family life is busy and at times a child may not have an opportunity to complete the homework set. A homework and self-learning club will be available during a lunchtime. Please talk to your child's teacher if you would like further support or guidance.

A few suggestions to support the reluctant child:

- ✓ Read a page each or read the book to your child
- ✓ Set a time limit *e.g. 10/15 minutes* – if your child is still not engaged postpone (but not abandon it) and try again another time
- ✓ End on a positive; your child's confidence will grow. Avoid extending the session because it is going well; it may undo all the good
- ✓ Encourage and celebrate each achievement, however small

What if your child wants to learn more and enjoys a challenge?

- Use spellings and write sentences – nonsense and real ones
- Use a thesaurus for synonyms and antonyms

Help your child learn times tables up to x12 so they have quick and accurate recall, including related division facts *e.g. 6x4=24; 24÷4=6*