



Homework at Heatherside Year 5



Why do we set homework?

Homework provides an opportunity for children to practise, re-inforce, enhance and extend their learning beyond the classroom and to share with their family the work they are doing. Thinking skills, problem solving, independence and perseverance are all developed through homework tasks and activities in addition to the positive and lasting impact that practice at home has on children's progress in the basic skills.

We believe that homework provides an essential link between school and home, enabling parents to take an active role in their children's learning. The setting of homework helps children to develop independent study skills, taking responsibility for their work and managing their time effectively in readiness for challenges of the next stage of their learning.

At Heatherside Junior, we are committed to planning and providing homework that both supports and enhances the curriculum. Tasks and activities are linked to learning in school and, where appropriate, are differentiated to reflect children's abilities. Homework tasks will be varied throughout the year, sometimes it might be a game to play or make, some finding out, written activities linked to topics, maths problems or calculations or maybe items/ideas to collect in preparation for work in school. We may also set a whole school homework.

What homework is set?

Following a review and feedback from Parents in Summer 2021, we have planned a progressive approach to homework across the school. This will be subject to ongoing review and any changes will be shared with parents in advance.

For Year 5, children will be asked to continue reading at home and practising their times tables. They will have maths homework every other week, and some occasional Times Tables Rock Stars competitions. They will **also** be set a 'two weekly homework' which will link with their English or other curriculum areas.

Year	Maths	English/Other curriculum	Reading	Times Tables
5	Every other week, to be completed in maths homework books. First maths homework 22 nd September.	Set on a two-week cycle with choice of tasks. The first homework will be set on 29 th September.	At least three times* a week recorded in the Reading Diary. We recommend parents comment but children can write their own detailed comments.	Regular practice on focus table facts TT Rockstars

*For children who are still becoming independent readers, this frequency may be higher.

-  In all year groups, homework is given on Thursdays and is due in either one week or two weeks later, although project work may extend over several weeks. All children are expected to complete the work in the time given. Work can be handed in earlier.
-  Core Homework is expected to take approximately **30 minutes for Year 3** and **45 minutes- 1 hour for Years 4, 5** and **1 to 2 hours for Year 6**. (The exact time may depend on the child and parents are encouraged to speak to their child's teacher if homework is taking significantly longer than this.)
-  Children may also be asked to collect items to bring into school or, on occasion, complete an extended project over a period of time.
-  Homework tasks are set on DB Primary (our learning platform). We have ensured that all pupils are able to access the platform from home. Some tasks will be completed and the work uploaded on the platform; on other occasions, although tasks will still be set on the platform, work will be completed in the children's Homework Books (this will generally be the case for Maths homework)
-  **Parents are asked to check all homework and sign their child's book (where appropriate)** to indicate that this has been done.
-  All maths work is to be completed in pencil. All other work* should be done in **blue** pen, using either a fountain pen, rollerball or pen with free-flowing ink. Biro's must not be used. (* Year 3 will complete all their work in pencil initially.)

- 📖 Homework will be **marked** (either in the Homework book or on DB Primary) before the next task for that subject is set. Where appropriate, work may be assessed in class as an integral part of the lesson. If the activity has been e.g. research or a game to be played, feedback may be given orally by the teacher in class.
- 📖 All children are expected to complete/hand their work in on time, completed to a standard in line with their ability. A **stamp** may be awarded for exceptional effort or standard of work. **Stickers, positive comments, Star Certificates and House Points** will also be used to praise and reward good homework and effort.
- 📖 Teachers and Learning Support staff will help explain homework to any child who is experiencing difficulty and parents are also encouraged to contact the teacher if they are unsure about the task prior to the day that the work is due in.

What difference does reading at home make?

Building children's confidence and enjoyment of reading is fundamental to all aspects of future learning. The more 'Reading Miles' children have, the greater their understanding of vocabulary. This in turn will impact positively on their comprehension skills, spelling, writing and wider curriculum development. Any time spent reading and talking about books and texts makes a real difference.

Are lists of spellings set for homework?

We will share with parents the spelling rule/focus that we are working on in class and children will be encouraged to practise these at home. However, specific 'lists to learn' will not be sent home every week as our research has shown that children are not applying learnt spellings in their independent work and so the focus for learning spelling rules/patterns/words will be in school rather than at home.

What about children who find it difficult to complete homework?

If a child is not completing homework or is handing it in persistently late, the following steps will be applied. Children may also be asked to re-do work if it has been rushed and does not appropriately reflect the standard they are capable of.

1. The teacher will talk to the child to check they understood the work or if they are finding it difficult to complete the work at home.
2. The teacher will speak to parent/s to see how the school can support them, to establish if there are any factors that need to be taken into account and also to remind parents of the school's expectations with regard to homework.
3. Homework will be re-issued to be returned the next day.
4. If a child still fails to hand in their homework task, they will be required to attend Homework Club on a Friday lunchtime.
5. The school will contact parents by email to share concerns and to ask for their support.
6. If a child still fails to complete homework as required, Year Leaders or a member of Senior Leadership Team will be notified and may request a more formal meeting with the child and his/her parents.

The school recognises that it may be very difficult for some children to complete their work at home and every effort is made to provide the appropriate levels of support and guidance to meet individual children's needs. Children are encouraged to attend Homework Club if they would like some initial input or support.

How can parents help?

Our aim is to provide homework tasks that will enhance and improve children's progress and the support of parents in ensuring that homework is completed is essential. We ask that parents provide a quiet time and place for children to work and, as far as possible, that children complete the task on their own. Children are given a week to complete their work, which allows time for parents or children to check with the teacher if there are any misunderstandings about the task. We recognise that parents are busy too but ask that time is given to this important element of their child's education. Homework and Reading hints are given on the actual homework where possible. By working together, we aim to make homework a valuable and enjoyable part of Heatherside school life.