



Homework

**Parent and Carer
Information**

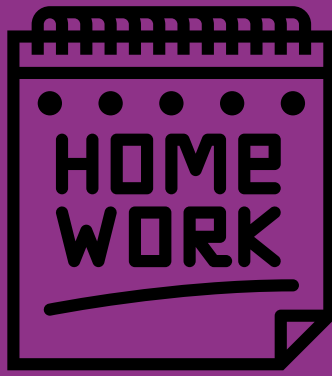


Homework Policy

Research from the Education Endowment Foundation shows that the benefits of homework for primary-aged children are relatively small. Evidence indicates that short, focused tasks linked directly to current learning, alongside ongoing retrieval of prior knowledge, are far more effective for long-term memory than lengthy daily assignments.

Using this research, here at Garston C of E Primary School, we have planned our Homework offer to ensure children are able to embed their learning as well as have time to enjoy extra curricular opportunities.





Embedding Learning

- *We believe homework should help parents support their child's education without sacrificing their need to rest, play, and pursue personal interests.*
- *Tasks should serve a clear purpose in consolidating classroom learning rather than being given as daily busywork.*
- *Daily Reading: Practice using weekly reading scheme books alongside a library choice book to discuss and explore new vocabulary together.*
- *Foundation Skills (Maths & Spelling): Short, regular retrieval practice for basic facts (like times tables and number bonds) to store them in long-term memory, alongside manageable bi-weekly spelling chunks.*
- *Knowledge Organisers & Creative Projects: Using topic fact sheets for simple self-testing at home, plus optional half-termly creative projects (Science, History/Geography, Art/DT) to build deeper enthusiasm.*
- *Because these activities directly feed into classroom learning, homework is not formally marked; its true impact is seen in your child's confidence and progress in school.*



Reading

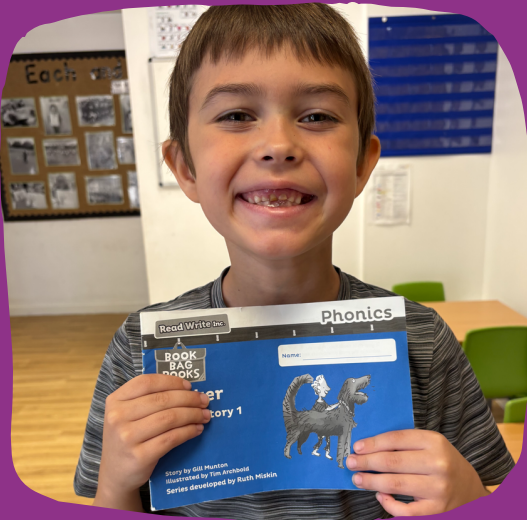


Daily reading is the single most important thing parents can do to support learning and helps establish a healthy, screen-free bedtime routine.



Your child will bring home a book to enjoy at home. This will be a book selected by them to read for pleasure, with others.

These are known as our 'Beloved Books' in EYFS and KSI and 'Reading for Pleasure Books' in KS2. These books will be changed once a week in EYFS and KSI, and change once completed in KS2.

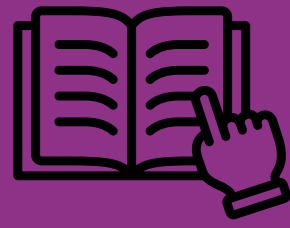


Your child will also bring home a banded reading book. This book is carefully matched to their reading level, focusing on known sounds to help them build fluency. Children should read this book again and again to help build speed and comprehension of the text. These books will be changed once a week.



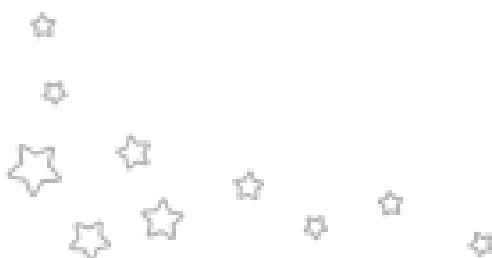
Children in our UKS2 classes who are confident and fluent readers will select their reading books based on their interests. Due to the length of these texts, children will be invited to select and change their texts once completed.

Reading



Ten top tips for reading stories to your child

- 1 Make reading to your child feel like a treat.
Introduce each new book with excitement.
- 2 Make it a special quiet time and cuddle up so both of you can see the book.
- 3 Show curiosity in what you're going to read:
Oh no! I think Arthur is going to get even angrier now.
- 4 Read the whole story the first time through without stopping too much. If you think your child might not understand something, model an explanation:
Oh I think what's happening here is that...
- 5 Chat about the story:
I wonder why he did that?
Oh no, I hope she's not going to...
I wouldn't have done that, would you?
- 6 Avoid asking questions to test what your child remembers.
- 7 Link stories to your own experiences (e.g. *This reminds me of...*)
- 8 Read favourite stories over and over again.
Get your child to join in with the bits they know.
- 9 Read with enthusiasm. Don't be embarrassed to try out different voices. Your child will love it.
- 10 Read with enjoyment.
If you're not enjoying it, your child won't.



Maths

1 2 3

Maths Skills to Practice at Home

Reception

Counting & Recognition: Counting aloud beyond 20, recognizing written numbers, and accurately counting physical objects one-by-one.

Number Bonds to 5 & 10: Playing games to spot quick number combinations that make 5 or 10 (e.g., $3 + 2$, $8 + 2$).

Shapes & Patterns: Spotting 2D/3D shapes around the home and continuing simple repeating patterns (e.g., red-blue-red-blue).

Key Stage 1 (Years 1 & 2)

Rapid Recall: Practicing number bonds up to 10 and 20 until known "by heart" to free up active thinking space.

Times Tables: Building fluency with the 2, 5, and 10 times tables through quick counting games and songs.

Everyday Maths: Telling the time to the hour/half-hour, identifying coins, and using simple measurement words (longer, heavier) during everyday activities.

Key Stage 2 (Years 3 to 6)

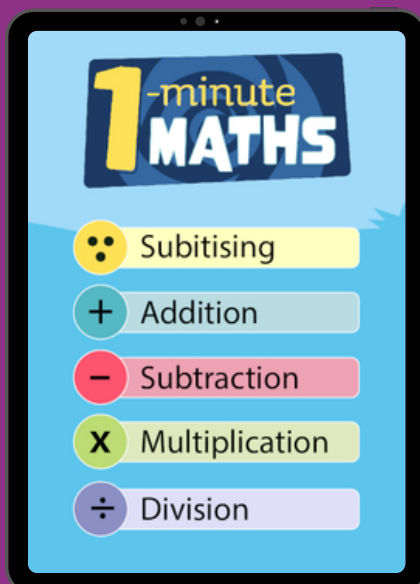
Times Tables & Division: Mastering all multiplication tables up to 12×12 and their inverse division facts for instant recall.

Practical Life Skills: Reading analog/digital clocks, calculating elapsed time, reading timetables, and working with money/change during household chores or shopping.

Mental Calculation: Practicing rapid mental addition, subtraction, estimation, and spot-checking fractions, decimals, or percentages in real-world contexts.

Maths Apps to Support

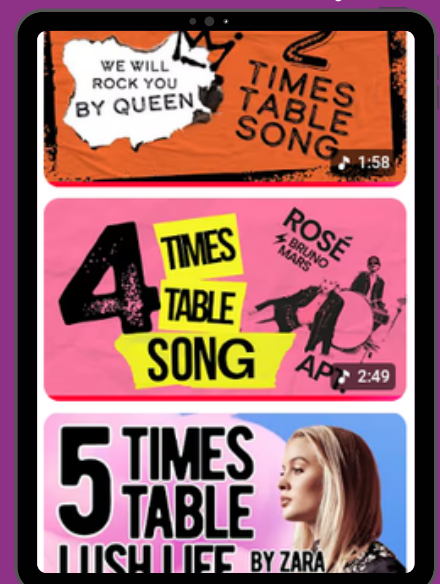
1 Minute Maths



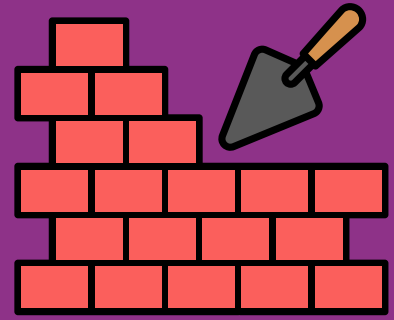
Times Tables Rock Stars



Youtube Maths Songs



Foundational Knowledge



Supporting your child's learning at home is most effective when focused on securing foundational knowledge, the core facts, vocabulary, and concepts that unlock deeper understanding across the curriculum. Rather than introducing new or complex topics, home practice works best when it relies on "retrieval practice," which means actively pulling previously learned information out of memory to make those connections stronger and longer-lasting.

To make this easy and accessible, dedicated knowledge booklets are available for Key Stage 1 (KS1), Lower Key Stage 2 (LKS2), and Upper Key Stage 2 (UKS2). These booklets outline the specific, age-appropriate facts and essential key terms your child is covering in school. Should you wish to do extra retrieval practice at home, these stage-specific resources provide quick fire questions, prompts, and simple activities to help you easily quiz and support your child and solidify their core knowledge in just a few minutes a day.

Use of Technology



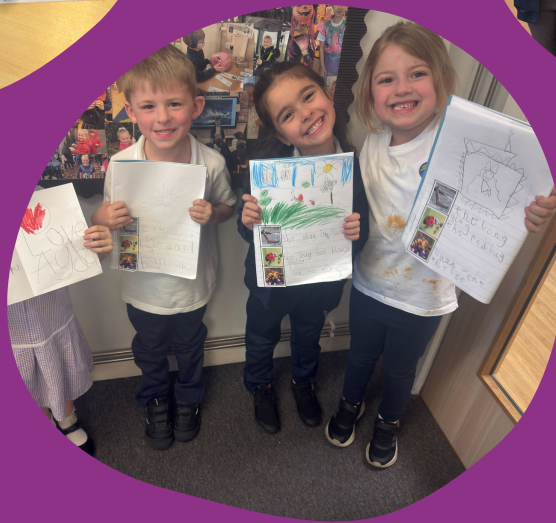
Children in KS2 will also have access to a Century account. This will allow them to access foundational knowledge practice through a digital device.

Children in Reception and KS1 will bring home QR codes for our Read Write Inc online portal. This will allow children to practice reading and writing skills at home.

Read Write Inc.

Spelling

✓
ABC



Bi-Weekly Spelling Lists

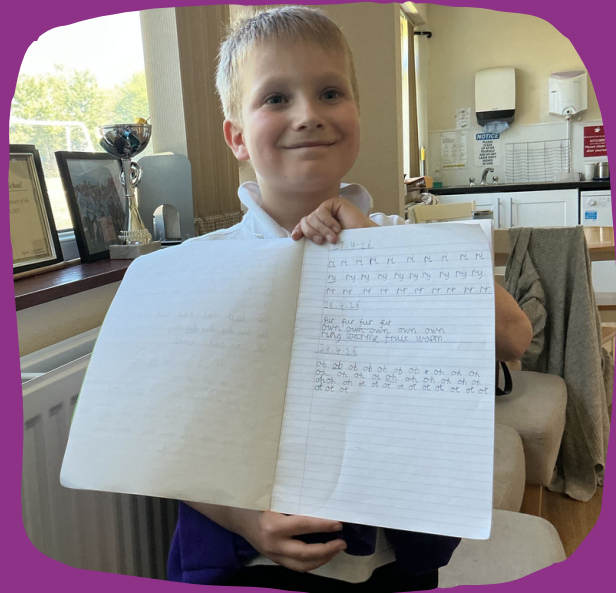
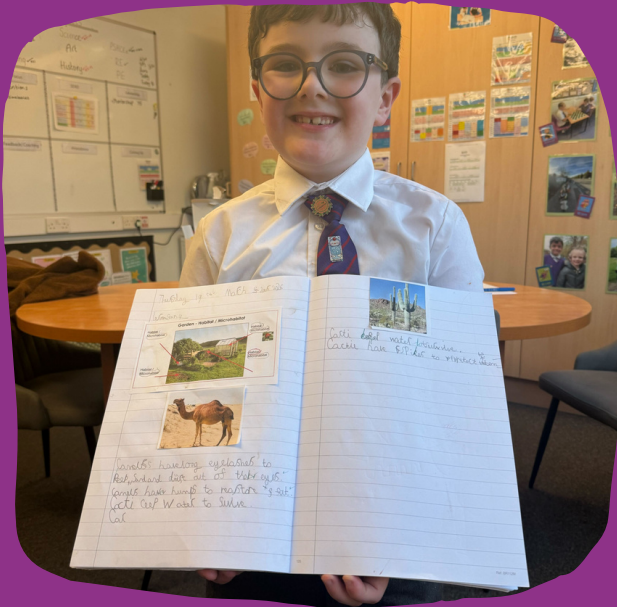
Shared at the start of each term, these lists support bi-weekly checks based on the rules taught in class and National Curriculum words.

- *Focus on Rules:* Children learn spelling patterns rather than just memorising random words.
- *Apply Learning:* Practice applying the rule to other words to build true understanding.
- *Little & Often:* Break lists into short daily chunks to avoid overload.

Practicing at Home

- *Daily Chunks:* Break the list down into 2–3 words a day.
- *Look, Cover, Write, Check:* Look at the word, cover it, write it, and check it.
- *Apply the Rule:* Ask your child to spot other words that use the same spelling pattern.
- *Fun Methods:* Use rainbow writing, letter tiles, or write sentences using the words.

Handwriting



Regular handwriting practice at home can ensure children build stamina for writing. Children should always be supported to form letters from correct starting points and use capital letters correctly. This allows them to apply these skills across the curriculum.

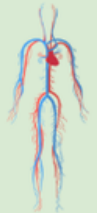
Children work towards joining letters from Year 3 onwards in the style shown below.

Welcome back to Letter Village. At Stage 3, children learn the 'hill' and 'bridge' joins.

Topic Learning



Spring 2: Animals Including Humans

Vocabulary Word	Meaning	
Circulatory System	A system which includes the heart, veins, arteries and blood transporting substances around the body.	Know ways that nutrients and water are transported within the human body 
Blood vessels	The tube-like structures that carry blood through the tissues and organs. Veins, arteries and capillaries are the three types of blood vessels.	
Know the impact of diet, exercise, drugs and lifestyle on the healthy functions of the human body. 		Know the names and functions of the main parts of the human circulatory system (heart, blood vessels and blood). 

Knowledge Organisers

At the start of each half term, children will be shared a Knowledge Organiser for their current topic.

- These handy guides set out the core facts, essential vocabulary, and key concepts your child will be learning across their foundation subjects.
- Knowledge Organisers are shared so you can easily see what your child is studying in class and support them with simple self-testing, quizzing, and discussing key vocabulary together.

Half-Termly Foundation Learning Projects

To deepen children's interest and enthusiasm for topic learning in foundation subjects (such as Science, History, Geography, and Art/DT), we offer half-termly creative home projects.

Each half term, children will be given two project options to choose from, allowing them to pick the activity that inspires them most.

Completed projects should be brought into school after the half-term break.

While these projects are not formally marked, they are proudly displayed in school as part of an end-of-half-term celebration event to share and celebrate everyone's hard work.

Make a tudor house.



#eachandeverychild

