



Durweston CE VA Primary School

Homework Policy

September 2022

Feed the mind, nurture the spirit, free the imagination!

Governors are mindful of their duties under the Equality Act 2010 and have screened this document to ensure compliance with the law

At Durweston, we recognize that homework can be used to:

Encourage children to read, write or do mathematics outside of school.

Encourage activities that promote a healthy lifestyle

Encourage talk between children and members of their family

Allow parents to share learning with their child

Enable parents to see what their child can/can't do

Enable parents to support their child's learning

However, we consider carefully when, why, how and what kinds of activities we send home, bearing in mind that children, parents and teachers often have busy lives and limited time outside school.

Where homework is set, we expect children to complete it to the best of their ability. As children get older, they may be asked to stay in at playtimes, lunchtimes, or Golden Times to complete homework that has not been completed at home.

Expectations

At Durweston, we believe that the most important homework that you can do is to **talk to your child**. Talk about your daily life, the things you do, the things you'd like to do, the things you wish you didn't have to do. Talk about what you see, feel, think, and hear. Listen to their comments, answer their questions, and extend their ideas.

We believe that the second most important homework is **reading with your child**. Not just hearing your child read their schoolbook, though this is important, but also reading with and to your child as often as you can. Please share books together, reading the words and discussing the pictures; join your local library; buy or borrow audiobooks to listen to on car journeys; take books on holiday, buy books for birthdays and Christmas, swap books with other parents. Share fiction and non-fiction, newspapers, comics, menus, timetables, shopping lists. Reading underpins every aspect of your child's education. Surrounding your child with the language of books is one of the best ways of helping them do well.

Children are made readers on the laps of their parents. (Emilie Buchwald)

A child who reads will be an adult who thinks. (Unknown)



Reading

We expect every child to read most days and to record this reading, though what this looks like obviously looks different in different classes.

Class	What school will do	What we would like parents to do
Starfish	Provide a breadth of age appropriate, quality reading material in the class library, listen to each child read at least once a week, or more depending on their needs. Give every child access to the school library through regular visits, allow regular time in class for reading for pleasure.	Listen to your child read or share a book with them 5 times a week and record in their reading records. Jot down any new sounds or words that your child has learned and circle in their reading record so that these can be practised in class. Practise any words/target sounds that are circled/ in clouds in their reading record and discuss their meaning. Talk about what your child is reading and ask them questions to ensure that they are comprehending the story.
Dolphins	Provide a breadth of age appropriate, quality reading material in the class library, listen to each child read at least once a week, or more depending on their needs. Give every child access to the school library through regular visits, allow regular time in class for reading for pleasure. Dedicate time within our topic lessons to refine reading skills	Listen to your child read or share a book with them 5 times a week and record in their reading records. Jot down any new words that your child has learned and circle in their reading records so that these can be practised in class. Practise any words/ target sounds that are circled/ in clouds in their reading record and discuss their meaning. Talk about what your child is reading and ask them questions to ensure that they are comprehending the story.
Seahorses	Provide a breadth of age appropriate, quality reading material in the class library, listen to each child read at least once a week, or more depending on their needs. Give every child access to the school library through regular visits, allow regular time in class for reading for pleasure. Dedicate time within our topic lessons to refine reading skills	Listen to your child read or share a book with them 2-3 times a week and record in their reading records. Remind your child to record their reading (including stories read to them). Jot down any new words that your child has learned and circle in their reading records so that these can be practised in class. Practise any words/ target sounds that are circled/ in clouds in their reading record and discuss their meaning. Talk about what your child is reading and ask them questions to ensure that they are comprehending the story.
Sharks	Listen to each child at least once a week, depending on their individual needs. Provide age appropriate, quality reading material in our class library. Give every child supervised access to our school library each week. Provide opportunities to read, learn and perform poetry throughout the term. Dedicate time within our topic lessons to refine reading skills.	Listen to your child read a small amount, each week, unless a Learning Journey requests otherwise. Remind your child to record any reading they do in their reading record. Practise any words written in circles in their reading records. Talk to your child about what they are reading and help them complete tasks in their reading record. Read anything enjoyable to your child whenever possible.
Porpoises	Listen to each child at least once a week, depending on their individual needs. Provide age appropriate, quality reading material in our class library. Give every child supervised access to our school library each week. Provide opportunities to read, learn and perform poetry throughout the term. Dedicate time within our topic lessons to refine reading skills.	Ensure children are reading an appropriate reading book and are recording their reading every day. Weekly completion of a reading task in their reading record using the prompts provided where needed. Make sure they reply to adult questions. And remember that year 5 and 6 children still love to be read to (and the books they enjoy, you might enjoy too)

Maths

Please take every opportunity you can to count with your child. As they get older, play snakes and ladders, dominoes and, with our oldest children, games like backgammon. Teach them how to tell the time and teach them about money – can they work out how much things cost and how much change they need? Talk about distance when you go to visit friends and relatives. Do some cooking and talk about full, half full, empty as well as how to weigh ingredients. All these things will really help.

Class	What school will do	What we would like parents to do
Year 1 Dolphins	Regular practice of number bonds to 10 and 20. Practice counting in 2s, 5s and 10s.	Maths Shed and weekly addition squares will be introduced when the children are ready.
Year 2 Orcas	Regular practise of number bonds to 20; addition and subtraction of two 2-digit numbers totalling up to 100; x2, x5 and x10 tables Arithmetic revision for SATs	Maths Shed Homework sent home weekly for a few weeks before SATs, up until SATs
Year 3 Seahorses	The 3, 4 and 8 multiplication tables Arithmetic	Maths Shed assignments
Year 4 Sharks	Recall multiplication and division facts for multiplication tables up to 12×12 Preparation for DfE Y4 Multiplication Check	Maths Shed assignments Times Table Rockstars Practise doubles and halves of numbers to 100
Year 5 Seals	Arithmetic	Maths Shed
Year 6 Porpoises	Arithmetic	Maths Shed

Spelling

Children in Years 1 – 6 are expected to practise their spellings at home in preparation for a weekly test.

Class	What school will do	What we would like parents to do
Starfish		
Dolphins	Test spellings learned throughout the week in class and at home through weekly dictation or spelling tests. Set weekly spelling assignments on Edshed. Remind children to practise their spellings regularly and celebrate great work.	Encourage your child to spend at least 15 minutes practising their spellings on Edshed AND/OR written practice. Help your child with words that they find particularly tricky.
Seahorses	Test spellings learned throughout the week in class and at home through weekly dictation or spelling tests. Set weekly spelling assignments on Edshed. Remind children to practise their spellings regularly and celebrate great work.	Encourage your child to spend at least 15 minutes practising their spellings on Edshed AND/OR written practice completed in homework books. Help your child with words that they find particularly tricky. If children forget their homework books, encourage them to find and copy down spellings from Ed Shed.
Sharks	Test previous list of spellings Set new list of spellings Provide activities to help rehearse spellings within class	Encourage children to find and copy down spellings from Ed Shed if they are away on the day they were set. Look at the weekly test in the back of their spelling books and check that your child corrects mistakes. Use alternative ways to practise using the spelling menu in the front of the spelling book
Porpoises	Spellings are given out weekly on a Monday and tested the following Monday.	Encourage children to practise little and often throughout the week please.

Please also find as many opportunities as you can for your child to write: birthday and Christmas cards; thank you letters, shopping lists, notes for the postman – anything you can think of!

Screen based apps allow us to set child-specific homework and to check children's progress online. If you are unhappy for your child to use screen-based apps, please feel free to present the same learning in a different way.

Creative Homework

In the Autumn and Spring terms, your child's class teacher will send home a grid of homework tasks that are linked to that term's topic. The purpose of these tasks is to give you an insight into what your child is learning about at school and to give ideas of activities that you might like to complete together. We ask that each term, every child produces at least one high quality piece of work from the list, though we are delighted when children choose to do more. This work, along with topic work done in school, is brought into school, and shared with other parents at our termly Open Days. Please bear in mind that space is limited!

**Absence in term-time**

We do not provide homework for children who are ill or who take holidays during term-time.

School Holidays

Please keep your child reading during the school holidays. We will make sure they bring reading books home, but these may need supplementing, especially during the longer summer holiday. Dorset Libraries run a summer reading challenge which we promote in school.

Additional resources

If you and your child are keen to do more work outside of school, the books from CGP (www.cgpbooks.co.uk) are reasonably priced and well matched to the National Curriculum.

If you would like more information about the homework that your child is expected to do or if your child is finding it difficult to fulfil the homework expectations, please make an appointment to talk to their class teacher.

NB 2022

*'Stand true in what you believe. Be courageous, be strong.
And do everything with love.' 1 Corinthians 16:13-14*