



# Ellington Primary School Homework Policy



## 1. Aims of Homework

Homework at Ellington is designed to:

- Reinforce learning that takes place in the classroom.
- Develop independence, time management, and self-discipline.
- Foster a partnership between home and school, encouraging parents/carers to support their child's education.
- Encourage a love for learning beyond the classroom.

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## 2. Homework Expectations

Homework will be age-appropriate, manageable, and purposeful. The following outlines homework expectations for each Key Stage:

<b>Year Group</b>	<b>Type of Homework</b>
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<b>Reception</b>	
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|--|---|
|  | - Reading with an adult (daily)   |
|  | - Daily letter formation sheets initially, followed by QR codes for phonics consolidation of sounds |
|  | - Weekly spellings (once children start the Red Ditty Phonics group)                                |
|  | - Occasional creative/number activities including Numbots   |

**Time Allocation – 10/15 minutes daily**

<b>Years 1 &amp; 2</b>	
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|  | - Reading 5 times per week                         |
|  | - Weekly spellings                                 |
|  | - Weekly times tables tasks including TT Rockstars |

**Time Allocation – 1 to 1 ½ hours per week in total**

<b>Years 3 &amp; 4</b>	
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|--|--|
|  | - Reading 5 times per week with some occasional additional reading tasks |
|  | - Weekly spellings   |
|  | - Weekly times tables tasks including TT Rockstars                       |
|  | - Occasional topic-related or research-based tasks                       |

**Time Allocation – 1 to 1 ½ hours per week in total**

<b>Year Group</b>	<b>Type of Homework</b>
<b>Years 5 &amp; 6</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Reading 5 times per week</li><li>- Weekly spellings</li><li>- Weekly maths and English tasks</li><li>- Occasional topic-related or research-based tasks</li></ul> <p><b>Time Allocation – 1 ½ to 2 hours per week in total</b></p>

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### **3. Roles and Responsibilities**

#### **Teachers**

- Ensure homework tasks are purposeful, clear, and achievable.
- Communicate homework expectations to pupils and parents.
- Provide feedback, where appropriate, to help children improve.
- Monitor the completion of homework.

#### **Pupils**

- Complete homework to the best of their ability.
- Respect their homework book and complete their homework in pencil or pen (if awarded a pen licence in school)
- Return homework on time.
- Ask for help if they do not understand the task at the start of the week.

#### **Parents/Carers**

- Support their child by creating a positive homework environment.
  - Encourage daily reading and discussion of tasks.
  - Communicate any concerns or difficulties regarding homework to the teacher.
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### **4. Feedback and Recognition**

- Teachers will provide verbal feedback, written comments, or class discussion where appropriate.
  - Children's efforts will be celebrated through positive recognition such as dojo points, stickers, or certificates.
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## **5. Equal Opportunities**

We understand that every family's situation is different. If a child is struggling to complete homework due to time, resources, or other challenges, we encourage parents/carers to contact the class teacher so appropriate support can be provided.

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## **6. Homework Support**

- The school will offer guidance to families on how to support their child's learning at home.
  - In Key Stage Two, homework clubs or additional support opportunities may be provided where possible.
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## **7. Expectations/Consequences**

- All homework will be set on a Friday. All times tables, maths and English tasks are designed to be completed with minimal adult support.
  - Homework set in homework books (Times tables, maths tasks, English tasks) must be completed and returned by the following Wednesday. Homework not completed at home will be finished in school at playtime on a Wednesday morning and the following morning breaks until this is completed.
  - Ideally, all children will read five times per week at home. However, all children should read at least three times per week at home. Reading records will be checked by class teachers every Friday and children who have not read three times at home that week, will stay in at playtime to read with an adult or reading buddy.
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## **8. Communication**

The school will provide a clear outline of homework expectations at the beginning of the year during curriculum evenings, newsletters, or through our online learning platforms.

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***We have decided to change our homework to focus on times tables and reading because they are fundamental to a child's academic success.***

## **Times Tables**

Times tables are a fundamental part of a child's mathematical development and are incredibly important for several reasons:

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### **1. Building Blocks for Mathematics**

- **Foundation for Key Concepts:** Times tables underpin many areas of mathematics, including multiplication, division, fractions, percentages, and algebra.
  - **Progression:** Without fluency in times tables, children may struggle to grasp more complex concepts later, as they rely on these basic facts.
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### **2. Improves Mental Arithmetic**

- Knowing times tables by heart allows children to **solve problems quickly and efficiently** without relying on calculators or written methods.
  - This speed is particularly helpful for mental arithmetic tasks and daily problem-solving, such as working out prices, budgeting, or measuring quantities.
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### **3. Confidence in Mathematics**

- Fluency in times tables gives children confidence in their maths ability.
  - When pupils can recall answers quickly, they feel less anxious during tests and classroom activities. This confidence often improves their overall attitude toward maths.
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### **4. Reduces Cognitive Load**

- Children who **memorise times tables** free up their working memory. Instead of getting stuck calculating  $6 \times 7$ , they can focus on solving the bigger problem.
  - For example, when solving  $24 \div 6$ , a child fluent in times tables immediately knows the answer is 4, without needing to repeatedly subtract or guess.
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### **5. Application in Real-Life Situations**

Times tables are practical skills used in everyday life, such as:

- **Shopping:** Calculating the cost of multiple items (e.g., 4 bags of apples at £3 each).

- **Cooking:** Adjusting recipes for more or fewer people (e.g., doubling or halving ingredients).
  - **Time Management:** Working out intervals (e.g., "How many minutes are there in 4 hours?").
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## 6. Essential for Future Learning

- Mastering times tables prepares children for **higher-level maths** in secondary school, such as algebra, geometry, and statistics.
  - Strong foundational knowledge can lead to greater success in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) subjects later on.
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## 7. Improves Problem-Solving Skills

- A solid grasp of times tables allows children to quickly identify patterns and relationships in numbers.
  - This enhances their ability to solve more complex word problems, reasoning tasks, and real-world challenges.
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## 8. National Curriculum Expectations

In the UK, the National Curriculum requires that children know their **times tables up to 12x12** by the end of Year 4. This ensures they are well-prepared for more advanced maths in upper primary and secondary school.

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## Conclusion

Times tables are a vital tool for mathematical success, helping children develop speed, accuracy, and confidence. Mastering them early gives children a significant advantage in school and beyond, equipping them with skills for life.

## Reading

*Research consistently shows that children who read regularly perform better academically.*

Reading is a vital skill in primary schools because it forms the foundation for a child's education, personal development, and future success. Here are the key reasons why reading is so important:

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### 1. Foundation for Learning Across the Curriculum

- Reading is at the heart of all subjects in school. Whether it's understanding instructions in maths, interpreting questions in science, or exploring historical events in history, reading is essential for accessing learning.
  - Children who are confident readers can engage fully in all areas of the curriculum.
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### 2. Development of Language and Communication Skills

- Reading helps children expand their **vocabulary**, improve their spelling, and understand grammar.
  - By encountering new words in books, children learn how to use them effectively in speaking and writing.
  - This ability to communicate clearly and confidently is critical for success in school and later life.
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### 3. Builds Comprehension Skills

- Reading improves **comprehension**—the ability to understand and interpret what is read.
  - Comprehension skills help children make sense of stories, information texts, and real-world materials such as signs, letters, and instructions.
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### 4. Encourages Imagination and Creativity

- Books expose children to new ideas, worlds, and experiences beyond their immediate surroundings.
  - Reading fiction encourages imagination, creativity, and empathy, as children step into the lives and perspectives of different characters.
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## **5. Develops Critical Thinking**

- When children read, they learn to ask questions, predict outcomes, and make connections between ideas.
  - These critical thinking skills are important for problem-solving in school and everyday life.
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## **6. Enhances Concentration and Focus**

- Reading requires children to focus for extended periods, improving their ability to concentrate.
  - Developing this skill early helps children work independently and manage longer tasks as they progress through school.
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## **7. Boosts Academic Achievement**

- Research consistently shows that children who read regularly perform better academically.
  - Reading fluency allows children to excel not only in literacy but also in subjects such as maths and science, where reading instructions and problem-solving are key.
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## **8. Promotes a Love of Learning**

- Reading for pleasure helps children develop a love of learning that extends beyond the classroom.
  - When children find enjoyment in books, they become motivated, curious learners who are eager to explore new topics.
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## **9. Supports Emotional Wellbeing**

- Books provide an opportunity for children to escape, relax, and process their emotions.
  - Reading about characters facing challenges can help children understand their own feelings, build resilience, and develop empathy for others.
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## **10. Prepares Children for Life Beyond School**

- Reading is a vital life skill. In adulthood, it is essential for everything from reading job applications and managing finances to understanding medical information and engaging with the world.
  - Developing strong reading habits early sets children up for success in their future careers and daily lives.
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## 11. National Curriculum and Expectations

- In the UK, the **National Curriculum** places strong emphasis on reading skills. By the end of primary school, children are expected to:
    - Read fluently, confidently, and with understanding.
    - Use reading to gather information, develop knowledge, and explore ideas.
    - Enjoy reading for pleasure as well as for learning.
  - National assessments, such as the **Phonics Screening Check** in Year 1 and SATs in Year 6, reflect the importance of reading in primary education.
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### Conclusion

Reading is vital in UK primary schools because it supports academic success, language development, and personal growth. It equips children with essential skills for learning, communication, and life, while fostering a lifelong love of reading that will benefit them far beyond their school years.

***Studies show that regular, meaningful homework can improve children's understanding of subjects and their overall academic performance.***