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# Parent Hub

*at St Bernadette's presents*

## How Can I Get My Child to do Their Homework?

Tips and tricks to make homework less of a battle

# Aims of the session

- \* Share tips to help your child complete homework.
- \* Suggest strategies to make homework less of a battle.
- \* Share information about what homework your child should be getting from school.
- \* Opportunities to ask questions you may have.

# Introduction

Homework can be a weekly battle with some children and can be a dreaded time of the week.

In this session we hope to give you some tips on how to make homework time become calmer and more enjoyable for both you and your child.

We will also provide you with the details of the homework your child is set at St Bernadette's.

At the end we will also do our best to answer any questions you may have.

# Top tips for Homework

## 1) Know the teacher

Attend school events such as parent consultation evenings to meet your child's teacher and have a chance to discuss the homework policy for the school. You will also find out the information you need to know first hand.

This will help as your child will know you have spoken to their teacher and are aware of the homework they will be being set.

## 2) Set a homework friendly area

Make sure your child has a tidy, clam and well lit area to do their homework. Try and make sure it is away from any distractions such as TV, loud music, phones and if possible younger siblings. Make sure they have supplies within reach to stop them from wandering around and getting distracted.

If children begin to associate homework with a certain area they know when they are there that's what they should be doing.

## 3) Schedule a regular homework time.

This will help it be a part of the child's weekly routine. They will know it is happening and hopefully get used to it. You can pick the time together so they feel like they are part of the decision making- a visual timetable can be really useful here! A chunking approach can also be useful for children e.g. They spend 10 mins each night across the week rather than 1 hour on a specific day as this can be daunting for children.

#### 4) Help them make a plan

Sit down with your child and find out exactly what they need to do and what equipment they will need (if you think you need equipment then the planning could be done the day before they do the homework in case you need to get anything).

Make a plan with them. Decided what needs to be done first and what they will need for each stage. A tick list is always good as they can tick off what they have done as they go and this will help as they will see they are making progress.

A 5 minute break after 10 minutes of work is a good idea. For older children and children this could be longer e.g. 5 min break after 15 mins working. It should be a physical break such a run around the garden, a dance around the kitchen or even stretching. Anything your child likes that is a quick activity. Be careful not to let them start anything that they can get carried away with and that will be hard to get them to stop like gaming.

## 5) Make sure your child does their own work

This can be tricky to follow. Especially, if they are finding something hard and may be getting frustrated. As adults our natural reaction is to take over and make your child feel better by doing it for them.

Your child won't learn if they are not able to make mistakes for themselves. If however, you have attempted to help them and they are still appearing to get it wrong it is important to contact the teacher and explain what is happening. They will be able to talk to your child and maybe show a different way of doing it.

If you were to complete homework for them it may mean they miss out on learning and the teacher will assume they have got it correct.

## 6) Be a motivator

Ask your child about their homework, a great tool is getting your child to teach you how they have been shown at school or to share the information they have learnt.

This will not only help you to see if they understand but it will boost your child's confidence. Some children don't like homework because they don't have the safety net of the teacher being there.

It is also a great source of bonding time between you and your child.

## 7) Praise their work and efforts

Always praise achievements and celebrate them as a family.

When they complete a piece of homework, take the time to check over it, read it and tell them what you like about it. This is also a good time to offer any advice for things that may need to be changed. Always start with the positives then offer any advice after.

“this is great I love how you .....maybe you could look at this bit again as.....”

You can reward your child if they have worked hard. These rewards can be things like an extra 5/10 minutes before bed, a trip to the park, a bike ride or letting them pick a film to watch as a family.

The rewards don't have to be treats that require extra money being spent but of course they can be if this is what you have chosen.

Remember to praise for smaller achievements too- this is very motivating and is an instant reward and good feeling for them. E.g. I like how you used x to describe x. etc.

## 8) Reading is key

As a parent you are your child's first teacher, one real practical way to help them with their learning is to read with them daily. This helps in a number of ways:

- \*helps their reading skills and understanding of words.
- \* enriches their imagination which will help in a variety of subjects in school including their learning through play.
- \*helps with social skills and turn taking.
- \* exposure to a wide range of vocabulary
- \*builds confidence in reading aloud which will help during class inputs.
- \*great source of bonding between adult and child.
- \*can be a good tool for relaxing especially before bed.

## 9) Be a positive role model

The attitude YOU express towards homework will likely be mirrored by your child. Make a habit of approaching homework with a positive attitude and remind your child how important it is to complete homework and what a good job they are doing.

Make sure if you are helping your child you are fully invested and not being distracted by other things. If you give homework your full attention your child is more likely to follow your example.

## Homework at St Bernadette's

Acorns- set on Google classroom every Friday and due in the following Friday

Saplings – Daily reading(recorded in planner), weekly Phonics (different for each group), Maths is sent on a Friday by GC (paper copy can be asked for).

Year 1 – Reading daily (record in planner), spellings are set in ½ term blocks and stuck in diaries and on GC. Spelling tests are on Mondays. On a Friday a piece of homework will be set on GC (paper copy can be requested) it will be due in the following Friday.

Year 2 – Daily reading (record in planner) a sheet is given out at the start of each ½ term with all the homework on it. It has the dates they need to be handed in by and it has the spellings also. There are 2 groups depending on phonics ability and your child will know which group. The sheets are handed out in paper form and is on GC. The spellings tests are on Mondays.

Year 3 – Read daily (record in planner). Homework is set on GC and is also stuck in lilac books, your child can pick which one they do. A piece is set weekly and based on topics they are doing in class. It is set on a Friday and due in the following Friday. Weekly maths is set on Professor Assessor. Spellings are also set weekly they are stuck in the hw book and on GC. Kangaroo test on Thursday and Panda on Friday.

Year 4 – Read daily (record in planner) all homework is set on GC. A HW grid is handed out at the start of each ½ term and new homework goes up on GC each Monday due in on the following Sunday. Spellings are set and the tests are on Friday for Lions and Mondays for Leopards. Weekly maths is set on Professor Assessor.

Year 5 – Read daily (record in planner) weekly spellings with the tests on Wednesdays. Weekly maths on Professor Assessor. ½ termly projects set where the children chose 2 options from the “homework menu” with “3 different spice levels” the choices will focus on different subjects such as Geography, History and Science etc and the date it needs to be handed it will be made clear.

Year 6 – Read daily (record in planner). Homework is set on a Wednesday and due in on Monday. English will be in purple books, Maths in a folder and spellings in planner and back of purple book. The tests are on Monday's. There is also a weekly STEAM task set on GC but this not compulsory.

All children should read daily for at least 20 minutes and have it recorded by an adult in their school planners.

If there are continuing problems with your child's understanding of the homework set or ability to complete it there may be an underlying reason so please contact their teacher. All teachers email addresses are available on the school website.

## Useful websites

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>

<https://www.curiousworld.com/>

<https://www.howstuffworks.com/>

<https://www.mymaths.co.uk/>

<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/>

[https://www.educationworld.com/a\\_tech/tech/tech097.shtml](https://www.educationworld.com/a_tech/tech/tech097.shtml)

<https://www.factmonster.com/>

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