

Homework at Clapgate

Approved by: Headteacher

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Reading

Reading is a fundamental skill that we aim to nurture throughout every child's time at Clapgate. We want all children to become fluent, confident and enthusiastic readers, therefore every child will read at home.

Children who are following Read, Write, Inc. Phonics

If a child is still being taught Read, Write, Inc. (RWI) phonics (this applies mainly to children in Reception and Years 1, 2 and 3), they will receive a login to Oxford Owl.

Each week, their teacher will upload, to Oxford Owl, the book they have been reading in RWI and a quiz to go along with this. The children will have a week to read this and complete the quiz, sharing their learning from the week.

They will also bring home a RWI book bag book that closely matches this electronic book. Children read this book bag book **at least 3 times** over the week.

Children who are no longer following Read, Write, Inc. Phonics

If a child is no longer following our RWI scheme, then they will bring home an Oxford Reading Tree book that matches their reading level. We ask that the children read **at least 3 times for 20 minutes** over the week. We also encourage children to read daily. This could be reading anything from magazines to football programmes, recipes, and instruction manuals.

All children from Nursery to Year 6 will also bring home a library book of their choosing to enjoy. These books can be read independently by older children or with a grown-up as a key part of developing a love of reading begins with being read to.

Alongside these books, children will also bring home a reading record. This is for parents and children to write in to record what has been read at home.

If a child hasn't managed to read their book over the week, the teacher can ask the child to read their book during break or lunch time on the Thursday or Friday so that no child ever gets behind. This will ensure that every child has the chance to become a brilliant reader. If the book is not returned on Thursday morning parent's will get a phone call to remind them to bring it in during the day or after school.

Talk Topics

The principle is a very simple one. Every teacher will send home something worth talking about, which then has a direct link back into a future discussion within school.

- EYFS will send home a Talk Topic through Tapestry fortnightly. This will be followed up in school the following week with a discussion and then a new topic set.
- In Key Stage 1, a half termly talk topic will be introduced in assembly and then sent home as a piece of homework. It will always be part of what the children are already learning in school. All class teachers will find time to follow up the conversation in school.
- In Lower Key Stage 2, the children will be asked a question at the end of Wednesday's assembly. Parents will then be emailed after school on Friday with the talk topic as part of the children's homework. This will also be shared on Facebook with the stars and good workers. During Wednesday phase assemblies, time will be given for children to share their ideas.
- In Upper Key Stage 2, the children will be introduced to a question or topic in assembly. This topic will then be sent out as an email to parents so that the children are able to discuss the topic with them. During a later assembly, children will have an opportunity to feedback and discuss the topic in further detail. Class teachers will feed in new questions when appropriate and discuss throughout the week too.

Spellings

As a school, we follow the Head Start Scheme for spellings. Throughout the year, every child will bring home sets of spellings to learn. The spellings for each year group are taken from spelling patterns and from the list of common exception words (as listed in the curriculum).

Children will be given suggested activities to use to practice their weekly spellings and will also be expected to write each spelling into a properly constructed and appropriate sentence.

- Key Stage 1 – children will have a menu of activities to pick from to work on their spellings.
- Lower Key Stage 2 – chunking into syllables, write the spellings in a range of styles (vary colour, size, font etc...), look, cover, spell, check.
- Upper Key Stage 2 - pyramid writing, look, cover, write, check, timed writing and ABC writing.

Maths

We have chosen to focus on supporting the children in gaining automaticity of key facts in all year groups from years 1 to 6. To that end, each year group have a specific set of facts that they will work on throughout the year. Children will be given suggested activities on a 'homework mat', that they can choose from in order to learn these facts. The homework mat includes ideas for oral activities and written activities.

All children have a log in for Times Tables Rockstars (KS2) and Numbots (KS1) and are encouraged to take part in regular practice at home.

EYFS

In EYFS, reading at home is our main priority. We don't send additional weekly homework. Instead, we set half termly projects when it fits in with our theme. For example, the children may take part in a project where they have to design and create either a new hat for either a witch or wizard. Short tasks may also be sent out on 'Tapestry' where it supports learning. For example, we might ask the child to go on an autumn walk and gather autumn things. Children will also be given 'talking topics' to discuss at home to develop their oracy skills.

Year 6

After Christmas, all children in year 6 will receive revision books for maths, reading and spelling, punctuation and grammar. They will be set a weekly task from each book which is marked and discussed as a class as part of their learning.