



Homework Guidance

Why do we set homework at DPS?

At Deer Park School, we set homework to consolidate our pupils' learning, enable a deeper level of access to the curriculum and most importantly to foster an independent attitude to learning.

The amount of homework set is tailored to your child's year group and their individual needs, for example, if your child is new to English or has Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND).

How should it be completed?

Effective consolidation and retention of knowledge in children's long-term memory is achieved when homework is completed in **small manageable chunks** and repeated over the week rather than one session on a Sunday. Even if your child achieved 10/10 in a spelling test after learning them on Sunday night, they may not be able to re-call them in the following months as they were only stored in their working memory.

The best way to learn spelling words and timetables, for example, is to have one quiet session learning the words early in the week followed by a number of short 5-minute sessions on the bus, walking to school or setting the table for supper.

What subjects will the homework cover?

Reading

Reading each night for **at least 20 minutes** with your child is the most important homework. Even if your child can read independently, they must still read with you for 20 minutes a day. This is so they can talk about the book they are reading with you, seek clarification about any unknown words or concepts and see through your engagement that you too value reading. Please do not look at the colour of the book that your child is bringing home or comparing it to other children. Sometimes children might bring the same book that they have previously read before. If this does happen, please do not worry this just means your child will already be an expert in this book and they will be able to work on other parts of their reading such as prosody or comprehension.

Reception to Year 3

They will have a yellow reading record that must be completed by you each evening to confirm that this has taken place. You could also use it to ask any questions regarding their reading or identify things they loved or found difficult. Comments can include a date and an initial, a brief comment about how they get on with their reading or a simple date and tick.

Years 4 - 6

They will have a DPS school planner in which they need to record their reading 5 times a week and this needs to be at school each day. We shall also monitor how much your child is reading through Accelerated Reader data. If we are concerned that your child is not reading enough; is not understanding what they are reading (low quiz score) or they are reading books that are repetitive or unchallenging we shall discuss it with them.



Spellings

The spellings are words which have been set under the National Curriculum 2014 because either they are difficult to spell, or they are useful words or both. In Year 3-6, they will be asked to place these words into a sentence to show they understand the word in context. Also, they may be asked to apply a rule of grammar they are learning that week, for example 'add an embedded relative clause to the sentence'. This will be specified in the homework task sheet.

Sounds and Tricky Words

Newsletter

Every week attached to the newsletter for Reception and Year 1 you will have access to a simple worksheet. This will include the following that have been covered in class:

- sounds
- tricky words
- other useful words
- spellings

In Early Years, it will **also** include how to form each letter correctly.

These worksheets do not need to be brought back into school; this is just for you to use at home.

Weekly Email

This will have the sounds and tricky words for the next week for you to explore with your child. In Reception and Year 1, we will introduce a new sound 4 times a week and up to 4 tricky words a week. Friday is always a review lesson from the week. However, some weeks are just revision lessons, but this will all be shared with you on the weekly email. The progression map for Year 1 and Reception are on the school website.

Some children in other year groups might also have similar worksheets to be shared at home.

Vital Vocabulary

These are 5 vital words sent home in the Friday email that will be used in their lessons over the course of the half term. They vary each week and could be words relevant to maths, science or history or any other subject they are studying. They are carefully chosen by the class teacher so that your child has some understanding prior to being explicitly taught them at school.

These need to be discussed at home that week and, for Year 4-6, a definition needs to be written in their homework book. These are crucial to their understanding of what they will be learning that week.

Maths

Maths homework is set weekly on Century for Year 3-6. Your child will be set weekly 'nuggets' with a particular focus on what they have been learning that week in maths lessons. Children need to complete work on Century each week, focussing on the nuggets that have been set by their class teacher. It is important for children to consolidate concepts



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learnt in class, and the fluency they practice at home on Century will improve their ability to apply themselves to reasoning and problem-solving questions.

Memorising times tables makes it far quicker and easier for children to increase their fluency speed. Moving beyond using their fingers to work out answers, they'll be able to use their knowledge to quickly solve any multiplication questions. All children need regular times table practice at home to support their in-class practice. See the below table to know which times table your child should be focussing on:

Year Group	Times tables
Year 1	x2, x5
Year 2	x2, x5, x10
Year 3	x3, x4, x8
Year 4	x6, x7, x9, x11, x12
Year 5	Consolidation of all times tables and corresponding division facts
Year 6	

Wider Curriculum

At the beginning of each term, years 3-6 will receive a homework activity task grid that covers science and all the wider curriculum subjects. Each week they will choose one to complete in their homework book and on Monday they will show it to their class teacher. This provides consolidation of these subjects, fosters deeper understanding and prepares children for a range of homework in secondary school.

How will the homework set vary across DPS?

Reception and Year 1

Each week they will choose and bring home a **library book** to share with you.

Starting in Autumn, each Friday, they will return home with a **Little Wandle Phonics book** that needs to be read by them at least 3 times until they are fluent and reading with automaticity. Some children will be bringing home wordless books. These are to be shared with the children spotting the sounds which are indicated on the page. At the front or back of all the books there are some prompts that you can use to help support your child at home.

These books must be in the plastic wallet with their reading record every day. The books will be collected in on Wednesday.

In the Friday email, you will be told what **sounds, tricky words and 5 Vital Vocabulary words** **they** are learning in the following week. All these need to be discussed and practised at home that week.

Later in Autumn 1 term, the Year 1 children will be given a set of **spellings** to learn too.



Year 2

Each week they will choose and bring home a **library book** to share with you. Some may also have a Little Wandle book or a Big Cat book that needs to be read at least 3 times across the week until they are fluent and reading with automaticity. This needs to be returned on a Wednesday.

We will move the children onto the Accelerated Reader scheme (AR) throughout the Autumn term and in the KS1 Reading Workshop we shall explain more about this.

On Monday they will bring home their **spelling words** for that week in their homework book to be practised at home until the test on the following Monday.

In the Friday email, you will be told what **sounds, tricky words that they are recapping and 5 Vital Vocabulary words they** are learning in the following week. All these need to be discussed and practised at home that week. Some children will bring a different version of the sounds and tricky words home with them which will be in their book bag.

Year 3

Reading

Each week they will choose and bring home a **library book** to share with you. This book will be on the Accelerated Reader (AR) scheme and so they should complete a quiz on it once they have finished it. Your child does not have to do a quiz each time as some books may not have a quiz or you child may wish to read a challenging book beyond their ZPD just for pleasure. Periodically, they will be assessed to see if they are ready to move up another level.

Spellings

On Monday they will bring home their **spelling words** in their homework book to be practised at home until the test on the following Monday.

On their spelling sheet and in the Friday email, you will be told what **5 Vital Vocabulary words** they are learning for the following week.

Wider Curriculum tasks

Each Monday your child will bring to school their homework book with their completed work inside. If they choose an art task, they will need to bring in their sketch book too.

Maths

Each Monday, new nuggets will be set on Century by the class teacher. Children are expected to complete at least **20 minutes** completing these nuggets, as well as those recommended by Century.



Year 4- 6

Reading

Each week they will choose and bring home a **library book** to share with you. This book will be on the Accelerated Reader (AR) scheme and so they should complete a quiz on it once they have finished it. Your child does not have to do a quiz each time as some books may not have a quiz or you child may wish to read a challenging book beyond their ZPD just for pleasure.

Spellings

On Monday they will bring home their **spelling words** in their homework book to be practised at home until the test on the following Monday.

In the Friday email, you will be told what **5 Vital Vocabulary words** they are learning for the following week. The definitions of these need to be written into their homework book.

Maths

Each Monday, new nuggets will be set on Century by the class teacher. Children are expected to complete the nuggets. This should take **30 minutes in Years 4-5** in and **40 minutes in Year 6**. If they have completed the set tasks, they can complete their 30 or 40 minutes with the recommended tasks Century sets them.

Wider Curriculum tasks

Each Monday your child will bring to school their homework book with their completed work inside. If they choose an art task, they will need to bring in their sketch book too.

Year 6 SATS

If you would like ideas to support your child at home in preparation for SATs, then please contact Mrs Wilson or Miss Race who would be more than happy to help. Extra learning will be given to your child over the Easter holidays. This will not be compulsory, and more information will be given nearer the time.

What will happen if my child's homework is not completed?

If they have not read or completed their homework at home, they will complete it at school at lunch time as we do not wish them to miss out on this crucial consolidation.

What do I do if my child is struggling with homework?

In these circumstances, email the class teacher via info@deerparkschool.org.uk. It is extremely important that homework does not become an issue at home and ruin your time with your children. Equally, they need to learn that when it is set, it must be completed. At DPS, we find that a quiet conversation with their class teacher usually resolves this issue. Please also do contact the class teacher if they are finding the work set too difficult.