



## Homework and Reading Diary Expectations Across The School

Reading diaries are an important part of tracking reading across the school but how they are used is slightly different as the children progress through the school. This letter aims to clarify the expectations for each year group so that they can be used effectively.

Daily reading throughout school is vital for children's reading development, supporting both fluency and comprehension. The whole school expectation is that children will **read at home 5 times a week**. The reading diaries are a way for children to communicate their weekly reading journey with the teacher and for teachers to recognise and reward this reading. It is part of the weekly homework expectations in each year group.

### Years R and 1 - Reading Diary

In Year R, daily reading is the only homework your child will receive as securing early reading and phonics is a crucial part of your child's development. This is the same in Year 1, with the addition of spellings on Spelling Shed every week. Developing reading fluency is important, and re-reading the same book will help to develop your child's sight recognition and fluency. Please complete and record a minimum of 5 reading diary entries a week. Your child's teacher will add a note or sticker to mark when they have read with an adult in school. Children can read with a teacher any day of the week so the reading diary should be in their bag every day. House points are awarded to recognise reading at home.

### Year 2 - Homework Log and Reading Diary

Learning weekly spellings is essential as is Times Table Rockstar (TTRS) practice from early December. This reading diary allows your child's teacher to monitor reading at home as well as completion of spelling practice and TTRS. Please complete and record a minimum of 5 reading diary entries a week and sign to confirm your child's engagement with learning spellings and practicing times tables.

Your child's teacher will add a note or sticker to mark when they have read with an adult in school. Children can read with a teacher any day of the week so the reading diary should be in their bag every day. House points are awarded to recognise reading at home.

### Year 3/4 - Homework Log and Reading Diary

Year 3/4 is an important time for practising multiplication tables as the children prepare for the Year 4 multiplication tables check and to develop a strong foundation for other areas of the maths curriculum. Daily practice at home (5-10 minutes at a time) will support children to develop instant recall, supporting them to work with greater speed and improving confidence in maths. The homework log and reading diary is an essential part of teacher monitoring of children's times tables engagement, reading and spelling. Please can you support your child in learning times tables and sign to confirm when your child practises - this works best if part of a daily routine. In Year 3/4, some children may still need to read aloud to a parent whilst others are reading independently. Children are still expected to read 5 times a week and this should be recorded by either the child or the adult. Please also sign to show each day your child has practised their weekly spellings.

In Year 3/4, children begin whole class guided reading sessions to expand and develop text knowledge and vocabulary. These sessions do not get noted in the children's reading diaries but teachers will still be monitoring children's reading at home through weekly reading diary checks. Reading diaries in Y3/4 should be handed to teachers on a Monday and will be returned to you on a Wednesday, complete with the spelling list. House points are awarded to recognise reading at home.

### Year 5/6 - Online Reading Diaries

In Year 5/6, daily reading remains as important as other year groups as children build up reading stamina and learn to tackle a wider range of texts. At this stage, we are looking for children to be more independent with recording their reading but we also want to maintain enthusiasm for reading at home. Therefore, at this point in their school journey, the children are given an online Boom Reader account. This allows them to upload their daily reading and leave book reviews to share their opinions about books they have read. The use of Boom Reader also prepares children for secondary school where a significant amount of homework is set using online applications.

Children are still expected to read 5 times a week and they need to log this on their Boom Reader account. Daily practice of spellings remains essential and children will still need to practise times tables.

Children have CGP books for their homework in this phase and these are expected to be brought into school every Monday. This is also the day that house points are awarded to recognise the reading they have done at home. If you have a child in Y5/6 who would prefer a paper reading diary, please let your child's teacher know.

If you have further questions about how to support reading at home, please contact me or your class teacher.

Yours sincerely,

Clare Holland  
(English Lead)