



Otterbourne Church of England Primary School  
Trust, Respect and Determination

## HOMEWORK POLICY

Name / Signature of Headteacher:	Martin Geraghty
Name / Signature of Chair of Governors:	Sue Barham
Date Policy approved and adopted:	September 2025
Date Due for review:	September 2026

### VERSION CONTROL LOG

Date	Description of changes (person responsible)
12/01/24	Far ranging changes to reflect the school's new approach to homework.
15/09/25	Changes to Y5/6 homework approach.

#### **Rationale:**

Learning at home is an essential part of a child's education but this has to be balanced with wellbeing and family time. Research from the Education Endowment Foundation, shows that the benefits of homework lie most productively in regular routine homework that supports the foundations for learning. The school has changed its approach to homework as a result of these findings.

## **Aims:**

- To promote the value and importance of homework, especially as children transition from the school.
- To prioritise homework that is integral to the foundation skills within the curriculum
- To provide further opportunities for parents, pupils and school to work together. This might take the form a larger, more creative activity designed to encourage collaboration and demonstrate creative skills.
- To ensure parents have a clear understanding, from the school, about expectations of themselves and of the children.
- To extend and support the learning experiences in school through extension, exploration, reinforcement and revision.
- To take into account the nature and duration of homework activities based on the child's age and ability.
- To prepare Year 6 pupils for secondary transfer and the increase in homework expectations.

## **Guidelines:**

The time spent on homework should not be exceeded by children, unless that choice is made by the children themselves. Children will be rewarded, as consistent with the school's Reward System, for effort and engagement with homework tasks. If children persistently fail to complete or submit homework, a meeting with parents/carers will be requested.

## **Early Years**

Children in Year R are expected to complete daily reading of Bug Club books, which are available in the online library or by paper copies left in book bags. As appropriate, the class teacher will also support parents to give their children regular Phonics revision, including flashcards and online Bug Club games.

The Early Years teacher will work closely with families to ensure that everyone understands the importance of routinely reading at home during the first year of school as this is a strong foundation on which to build in subsequent years.

Teachers will praise and reward independent writing and number work completed at home.

Daily phonics practice, reading (10mins).

Daily number formation, recognition and counting practice.

Handwriting practice (handwriting formation practice sheets to be sent home by teachers).

## **Key Stage 1**

In Key Stage 1, homework will largely consist of regular reading with parents and carers, for between (five times per week), the revision of phonics and spellings, and learning multiplication tables.

## **Key Stage 2**

### *Years 3 & 4*

Children in Year 3 and Year 4 are expected to read either with an adult, or independently, five times per week, making notes in their Reading Record. Children should also be accessing TimesTables Rockstars regularly to practice times tables and they should practice their set spellings.

### *Years 5 & 6*

Children in Year 5 are expected to read either with an adult, or independently, five times per week, recording the books they have read and their responses to these books in their reading journal (Book of Books). Children should also be accessing TimesTables Rockstars and should practice their spellings at home regularly. Year 5 children will also have a weekly maths activity set on the online learning platform IXL.

Children in Year 6 are expected to read either with an adult, or independently, five times per week, recording the books they have read and their responses to these books in their reading journal (Book of Books). Children should also be accessing TimesTables Rockstars and should practice their spellings at home regularly. Year 6 children will also have a weekly maths and a weekly English activity to complete on the online learning platform IXL.

## **Reading Diary and Homework Logs**

In Year R, 1 and 2, parents should record when children have read at home.

In Year 3/4 we ask children to write a comment about their enjoyment of their reading, or something they have learned from it, and the reading diary should include a parent signature each week so we have a clear partnership regarding the importance of reading at home. Children are to be encouraged to read on their own or with others, at home, to promote reading stamina and enjoyment. Parents should also be confirming when other activities have been completed so that teachers can be confident that children are meeting their homework expectations each week.

## **Other information**

Occasionally a research and creative homework task will be set within Science or Topic, giving the children an opportunity to share their learning at home or explore their understanding in a creative way.

Children will not be expected to complete homework by the day after it has been set. This recognises the fact that children have other after school commitments and may spend time in more than one household during the week.

We will not normally provide homework for periods of holiday, but times-tables practice and regular reading and spelling would always be valuable to the children. This will change in the Spring Term for Year 6 children as they face the KS2 assessments.

The routine for homework will be clearly presented to parents in the termly newsletter, and is published on the school website via the class pages.