



Homework at St Stephen's 2025

Homework at St Stephen's

We define homework as any activity that pupils undertake outside of school lesson time, either on their own or with the support of family members. We endeavour to set homework which will consolidate children's learning at school. All teachers understand the importance of retrieving and recalling information in order to support new learning into each child's long-term memory. With this in mind, most homework should consolidate learning from school.

Why Give Homework?

- It consolidates learning from school
- It can inform parents about work going on in class;
- It can further stimulate enthusiasm for learning
- It takes advantage of the home environment and resources and the chance for one-to-one adult time
- It can be a great source for gathering topic information to share with all the children
- It is a great opportunity to rehearse key skills such as times tables, doubling facts, addition sums, spellings, handwriting
- It helps to foster good habits of organisation and self-discipline in preparation for the demands of Secondary School.

Google Classroom

We use Google Classroom and Tapestry in Reception to share important information and to support the home learning environment. Every child has a unique login to the classroom. Google Classroom is a safe and secure solution for children to access learning materials directly from their class teachers; a location in which they can collaborate with their peers by sharing useful websites and tips to completing assignments; a hub to allow blended learning direct from their school classrooms into the comfort of their own homes.

Reading Books at St Stephen's

All children must always have a reading book at the appropriate level, regardless of age.

For those in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 the decodable reading practice book, which has been read at school, is taken home to ensure success is shared with the family. A reading for pleasure book also goes home for parents to share and read to children.

We use the Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised parents' resources to engage our families and share information about phonics, the benefits of sharing books, how children learn to blend and other aspects of our provision, both online and through workshops.

<https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>

As children complete their phonics learning, they will progress on to our Accelerated Reader book system. Accelerated Reader is a computer program that helps teachers manage and monitor children's independent reading practice. When finished, your child takes a short quiz on the computer (Passing the quiz is an indication that your child has understood what was read).

Children are assessed at school and are given a ZPD level - this will guide their independent book choices. All books at St Stephen's have a ZPD level and children should be aware of the level they are working at.

Teachers should check regularly that the books are not too difficult and can be accessed independently. Children can read books from home, but teachers must check and be aware that this is the right level for the child and, where possible, log on to Accelerated Reader to complete the quiz after the book has been read.

Children should have their reading record signed every day and checked by the class teacher at least every week. Please communicate any problems with reading books to the class teacher in the reading record.

Logins

Logins for all online platforms will be supplied at the beginning of each academic year. If you have any problems with these logins, please contact your child's class teacher directly.

Reception Class

Homework in Reception class is set on Friday on Google Classroom. Evidence of homework is submitted via Tapestry, in order to add to the child's learning journal, by the following Friday.

- Daily practice of new sounds, recap of previous sounds and 'Tricky words'
- Daily reading of library book
- Daily reading of decodable reader (once we have taught the initial part of the phonics programme)
- Weekly maths challenge
- Weekly play activity (these interaction opportunities increase your child's vocabulary and their self-regulation)
- Half termly topic booster (home learning activity for the holidays to prepare your child for the next half term)
- Big Cat e-books

KS1 – Year 1

Homework is given out on a Friday and collected on a Friday. We make every effort to keep this consistency so that families can plan their homework support.

- Reading book (phonics) – 10 mins/day (changed on a Friday). Notes are recorded in home-school reading record and noted by the teacher on Friday.
- Phonics (set sounds)– to be practised for 5 mins/day This should include introducing new sounds for the week
- Spelling – To consolidate phonics from the week's learning and tricky words.
- Maths – online homework - Mathletics
- Vocabulary - introducing new words for new topics (Knowledge organisers will be shared on Google Classroom to support this)
- N.B., on occasion, children may be given additional homework to support learning in the Foundation Subjects (History, Geography etc). This may be in the form of a project to work on over time.

Ongoing online Homework

Mathletics - consolidates learning in Maths

Collins Big Cat E-books - books are set according to children's reading level.

KS1 - Year 2

Homework is given out on Friday and collected back in on the following Friday. We make every effort to keep this consistency so that families can plan their homework support.

- Reading book (decodable phonics) – 10 mins/day. Notes are recorded in home-school reading record.
- Phonics (set sounds)– to be practised for 5 mins/day.
- Spelling – To consolidate phonics from the week's learning and tricky words.
- English - short activity based on learning from the week.
- Maths – online homework - Mathletics
- Vocabulary - introducing new words for new topics (Knowledge organisers will be shared on Google Classroom to support this)
- N.B., on occasion, children may be given additional homework to support learning in the Foundation Subjects (History, Geography etc). This may be in the form of a project to work on over time.

Ongoing online Homework

Mathletics - consolidates learning in Maths

Collins Big Cat E-books - books are set according to children's reading level.

LKS2 – Year 3 and Year 4

Homework is given out and collected weekly. We make every effort to keep this consistency so that families can plan their homework support.

- Reading book – 15 mins/day (can be changed any day of the week)
- Spelling Concept Homework
- Maths – Mathletics - consolidates learning in maths from approximately 2 weeks prior to homework being set.
- Grammar - set through Google Classroom
- Vocabulary - introducing new words for new topics (Knowledge organisers will be shared to support this)
- On occasion, children may be given additional homework to support learning in the Foundation Subjects (History, Geography etc). This may be in the form of a project to work on over time.
- Phonics (set sounds)– to be practised for 5 mins/day This should include introducing new sounds as well as practising previously learned sounds (some children)

Ongoing online Homework

Mathletics - consolidates learning in Maths

Times Table Rock Stars - Times Tables Rock Stars is a carefully sequenced programme of daily times tables practice. Each week concentrates on a different times table, with a recommended consolidation week for rehearsing the tables that have recently been practised. In Year 3 and 4, learning is focused on 3,4,6,7,8,9, 11 and 12 times table in order to be fully prepared for the Year 4 multiplication tables check. Times table work, number bonds and division work

Accelerated Reader - children can access online tests linked to books they have read at school.

UKS2 – Year 5

In Year 5 homework is given out and collected weekly.

- Reading book – 30 mins/day (can be changed every day of the week)
- Spelling x 15/week – Effective spelling strategies (includes individualised spellings)/practicing prior learning
- Grammar – x 20 mins/week
- Maths – Mathletics - consolidates learning in maths from approximately 2 weeks prior to homework being set.
- Vocabulary - introducing new words for new topics (Knowledge organisers will be shared to support this)
- N.B., on occasion, children may be given additional homework to support learning in the Foundation Subjects (History, Geography etc). This may be in the form of a project to work on over time.

Ongoing online Homework

Mathletics - consolidates learning in Maths

Accelerated Reader - children can access online tests linked to books they have read at school.

UKS2 - Year 6

From our conversations with secondary schools and former St Stephen's pupils and parents, we know that there is often a considerable step up in what children will need to independently accomplish at home when they are in secondary school. Consequently, in Year 6, we endeavour to set homework which will support children with this transition in a safe environment

Each week, children will typically be set a piece of homework each day which should take them approximately 30 minutes. At the start of the year, each child will be given a homework diary to support them in their organisation and management of their homework tasks. They will also be expected to record their daily reading (30 minutes a day) in this as well. Children will usually have a week to complete each piece of homework given (for example, homework set on a Monday will be due the following Monday etc). . Children who do not hand in their homework when due, or have not read in line with our expectations, will stay in at lunchtime to complete the missing work.

In the Autumn term, children will be set a variety of homework tasks, including:

- Online homework such as Mathletics and TTRS
- Homework sheets such as grammar, spelling, arithmetic, and reasoning
- Research and prior-learning tasks to support them

From Spring term, most of the homework will be set using subject-specific CGP books. For this, we do require donations in order to supply these books at a discounted rate to typical high street prices. During this period, children will be set pages from different books dependent on teacher assessment of learning. We hope that by using a variety of books in the lead up to secondary school, that pupils' learning is not only supported, but also their organisational skills and independence.

All homework, including timetables which details homework and due dates, will be available to check on Google Classroom each week.

Holiday Homework

As a school, we expect children to regularly read for pleasure over the school holidays. Please also continue to work on times tables every week as little and often is the best approach for this.

Teachers may set a research project to introduce a topic and enrich their prior knowledge. Holiday homework may also be used to consolidate learning.

Differentiated homework

- Individualised Spelling – appropriate spellings are set according to need.
- Support with independent reading book choice
- Online programmes - homework is tailored and set according to each child's prior knowledge.

Homework Completion

We expect children to complete their homework each week at home. It is an important habit to acquire from an early age and it will consolidate their learning from school. If, on occasion, your child is unable to complete homework at home, please contact your child's class teacher, who will arrange for your child to complete it at lunchtime. Where staffing allows, we may set up a homework club to support this.

Homework Assessment

In many cases, assessment of online homework informs teachers' future planning. All homework will be assessed by either a teacher or a teaching assistant and, if necessary, a child will be given further support.

Home Devices

If your child does not have access to a computer to complete their online homework, please contact the school office who will make arrangements for a computer loan to ensure equal access to all work.
