



Newbottle & Charlton CEVA Primary School

"Let all that you do be done in love"

Every person matters, every moment counts;

HOMework INFORMATION GUIDE

September 2024

Homework

We know for many homework is a contentious issue.....

Some parents believe that children should have lots of homework and some believe that children should have none at all. Whilst others have all shades of opinion in between! Some prefer apps and online homework, others prefer worksheets/booklets

At Newbottle and Charlton we adopt what we believe is a very sensible approach, firmly rooted in supporting the children's learning in school and as they reach upper Key Stage 2 supporting the transition to secondary school. The aim is to consolidate and reinforce key skills and understanding, particularly in literacy and numeracy that has been taught in school. We want to encourage pupils as they get older to develop the confidence and self-discipline needed to study independently.

We want the very best lifetime opportunities for our children by giving them the best possible start and we believe this is achieved best through an effective working partnership with parents. We want to provide an opportunity for parents to continue to be involved in the academic development of their child;

Parents are asked to encourage their children to undertake and complete homework tasks in order to promote

- good attitude to work
- self-esteem and a sense of achievement
- improved standards of performance .

We value the support you give to your children through discussion of their homework and would especially ask you to ensure that your child has the time and environment in which to work. We ask that you ensure that your child completes their homework by the end of every half term. This could be done weekly or more flexibly with more than one task per subject being completed for one week. Each child will get a reading record which should be bought into school daily. In the back there will be a homework record so that you/your child can record when they have completed their homework for the half term

Reading/Phonics

Maths

Spelling,, Grammar and punctuation

Our value of the half term

We feel it is important to focus on the following homework subjects to support learning in class

Types of homework- All years

Reading

There is nothing more important that you can do at home than support your child's reading as this unlocks the whole curriculum for them. Creating a love of reading in children is potentially one of the most powerful ways of improving academic standards. We want children to learn how to read AND we also want them to ENJOY reading.

We read regularly in class across the curriculum and have reading for pleasure books which we read aloud to children daily- including picture books, novels/chapter books, non-fiction books and poetry.

Reading at home is also really important for a child's development. This year all children will have reading records, written in by parents and staff and this is an effective source of communication between home and school and will help to support those children more that don't have as many opportunities to read at home.

Parents and carers, you play a vital role in supporting your child in becoming a fluent reader who is confidently able to apply their reading skills across all areas of their lives. Research suggests that children who read regularly outside of school perform significantly better and so your support at home is essential in ensuring that your child makes the progress they are capable of. You can help your child to achieve their full potential by listening to them read regularly, reading regular bedtime stories and by encouraging them to enjoy reading and sharing books together. Reading widely through all of these approaches will help develop your child's vocabulary, which in turn will make them more confident when reading more challenging books .



Types of homework- All years

Reading

Oak and Ash Class Reception, Year 1

Children weekly (on a Friday) will be given a book that is entirely decodable for them.

We ideally want them to practise reading their book 4 times across the week.

Repeating the book will develop the children's confidence and fluency and will provide opportunity for them to practise differing their tone and adding expression when reading aloud.

- 1st time for decoding (break words into sounds and start to blend back together) and defining unfamiliar words
- 2nd and 3rd time for fluency (reading accurately at a reasonable speed)
- 4th time for expression (reading with feeling and emotion)

Depending on the content of the book you may read once for fluency and then once discussing key parts of the book (comprehension). These books will be swapped every Friday.

Every read of this book should be recorded in the yellow Reading Record. This term we have a school reading challenge for all children to take part in linked to the number of times they have read. Miss Dooley will also set a class challenge for her children as they start to read their first decodable books. **Please ensure their reading books/records are in a school bag every day.**

To encourage a lifelong love of reading, the children have the opportunity to bring home an additional book they can read with you, from the classroom or library. You can keep this book for as long as you like as a family, and the children will be responsible for changing it when they are ready. This does not need to be recorded in the yellow Reading Records.

Year 2

Children will start the year with some of our more complex decodable books before moving onto to free-choice books with support from staff in choosing appropriate ones. As most children will have secure phonics they could read the book for fluency, expression and comprehension when reading a decodable books. On the next page will be more detail on reading for when they are on free-choice books.

Types of homework- All years

Reading

From Year 2-6

As children progress through school and become independent readers, they won't necessarily need to read aloud at home as often as we want them to become thoroughly engrossed in books. However, opportunities to read aloud for any age is beneficial in regard to reading with expression, intonation and fluently. It is equally important for them to have regular chances to listen to you reading. They are also never too old to have a book read to them. We read stories in school to children every day and you can hear a pin drop because they are so engrossed in the story.

Children should aim to read a minimum of 4 times a week. (Minimum of 15 - 20 minutes). This could be to you or another older child/adult. Children could also have time to read on their own and have a talk to you about what they have read. Seeing adults also reading can make such a big difference to children's enthusiasm for reading which in turn will support their academic progress.

Children will bring reading books home from school, but they are welcome to read anything they would like as they become free-choice readers. Some children we will give/recommend specific books if we feel that their current book is too easy/ too hard. We might persuade them to try out a different genre or author to wider their reading interests.

Children can change books daily in their classroom and they will have opportunities to take our books from our school library during lunch times. We also have an app called PICKATALE with quality books for children to listen to and read. Lots of these have questions at the end of the e-book to help children develop their comprehension skills. Log-ins will be sent out in the next few weeks.

Each child in the school will be given a reading record in which parents should record the daily reading that your child is undertaking. As children get older, they will take more responsibility for completing the record. While the comment boxes are big, there is not an expectation that this are filled in daily or with detail.

The more often, and the more widely you read the better you become at it!

Reading helps to develop empathy, language, vocabulary and imagination

Reading helps improve spelling, grammar, writing and general knowledge

It improves concentration and builds new connections in the brain

Reading is a great way to relax/spend time together

Types of homework- Maths Year 1-6

Maths



The focus on maths homework is to revise key concepts needed to be used across the maths curriculum including number bonds, times tables, quick recall of related facts etc.

Practising these can be done through spending time recalling at home. E.g. saying to children $1 + ? = 10$, $3 \times 4 =$ or if you know $3 \times 4 = 12$ what is $30 \times 4 = 120$. Let us know on seesaw how they are getting on.

We will also set 5 tasks a term revising and consolidating learning in class through our maths app Sumdog. All children from Year 1-6 will receive a record-in (these will be found on the inside of your child's reading record).

The task will automatically mark and let the teacher know where the gaps are which can support in class or can provide further evidence for interventions or booster groups. Please mark them off in their homework record when they have been completed (a tick is all that is needed).

Additional websites/games to support Maths

1. [1-minute maths app | White Rose Education](#)
2. [Topmarks.co.uk Topmarks: teaching resources, interactive resources, worksheets, homework, exam and revision help](#)
3. [Times tables games - Learn them all here!](#)

An alternative for those parents who would prefer them not to use an app we can provide some worksheets or maths journal for children to complete. These can be self-marked (if you feel able to) and brought into the show the teacher at the end of term. The curriculum letters will show you which areas to practise at home and teachers can give more direction if needed.

During Year 6 children will receive some maths revision guides and practise booklets to complete every week to ensure they are ready to move up to secondary school. This year this will be handed out after October half term.

We are updating our website to give you more information on our curriculum including maths over the next few weeks.

Types of homework- Year 1-6

Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar

This year we have decided to stream-line our apps and have subscribed to Sumdog for Spelling, punctuation and grammar. We have moved to a new spelling curriculum (which does not use the scheme of work from spelling shed therefore we won't be using the app). This new curriculum makes stronger links with spelling and writing and with grammar and punctuation, so we will set key tasks linked to these via Sumdog.

We also will be sending home common exception words (words that are spelled without using the normal spelling rules) to practise based on different assessments we carry out during the year.

Children will practise these words in class and up to 20 errors will be identified which will be generally from words that they are expected to already know by their age and will be written on a bookmark at the back of their book. These will be assessed every half term and new ones created. Key children will also have interventions to support their development of spelling during the school day where need.

Please see worksheet on ways they can practise these for around 10 minutes a week.

Types of homework-All years

Values

Each half term we focus on one of our school Christian values within collective worship and in lessons. The teaching of these are a critical part of a young person's education. These values help children develop their social and moral character and prepare them to be responsible and global citizens.

They will receive a sheet with a range of tasks that could be completed linked to a value- We ask they complete at least one and this could be shared on Seesaw or by bringing it in to class to show staff.



Types of homework-All years

Endless Possibilities

For those wanting to do more to support their child , there are so many things you could do with them. Please share these on Seesaw or send them in and staff will give verbal feedback to them and they may receive a special certificate etc.

Give them opportunities to research and/or make something linked to their school topics	Cook with them to help them learn about nutrition, measuring, cooking skills	Keep active- Going out for bike rides, scooter ride, playing in the garden/park
Go on walks and identifying key things in nature- birds, plants, trees	Speaking and listening- Learn poems , songs, nursery rhymes	Give them opportunities to write - Recipes, lists, stories, poems
Additional educational apps etc	Recall of spelling, number facts	

Reading Records will contain the homework record at the back for you to fill in when reading/homework is completed.

Work can be brought in or posted on Seesaw, staff will praise and give feedback verbally to children or post a short comment on seesaw. Staff will give time once a week to do this.

Reading records need to be in school daily and staff will regularly check these each term and may contact you to offer support if you are struggling with your child's homework.

Summary

Year	Task	Duration	Method of recording
Reception	Values task	15+ minutes a half term	Tick at back and share anything on seesaw or bring into school
	Read a decodable book	4 times a week (up to 15 minutes)	Record in Reading Record
	Practise reading harder to read and spell words	As often as you can - 1-2 minutes	Tick at back and share anything on Seesaw
Year 1	Read a decodable book	4 times a week (up to 15 minutes)	Record in Reading Record
Year 1-6	Values task	15+ minutes a half term	Tick at back and share anything on seesaw or bring into school
	Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar-Sumdog	15-20 minutes per week ideally	Marked electronically. Tick in back of reading record
	Spelling- Common Exception words List Handed out from 23 rd Sept	10-15 minutes a week (or when you can)	Record in practise book and hand in by end of half term
	Maths	15-20 minutes per week ideally	Marked electronically or self-marked. Tick in back of reading record.
Year 6	From November English task	30+ minutes per week Handed out Monday and collected in the next Monday	Completed in question book and discussed during lessons (Adult can mark at back-mark scheme)
	Maths task	30+ minutes per week Handed out Monday and collected in the next Monday	

