

Northbourne CE (A) Primary School



Homework in Kite, Kestrel and Eagle classes

**Information for
parents**



Aims of homework

At Northbourne, we believe that homework should:

Help children extend and build on the learning taking place in the classroom

Help parents and family members play a full and active role in their child's education

During Upper Key Stage Two, allow children to take increasing responsibility for organising their own learning, in order to be well prepared for secondary school and later life

Homework in Kite, Kestrel and Eagle classes

In Kite , Kestrel and Eagle classes, your child will receive...

Maths homework

Up to 30 minutes per week

- Pupils will be set maths homework each week. Usually this will be through the Mathletics website (www.mathletics.co.uk), where specific, personalised games and activities will be set for pupils to practise and consolidate class-room learning. Your child will record their username and password for this website at the front of their reading diary.
- On other occasions, a different activity—such as a game or worksheet— will be sent home.
- Homework in both forms will be set on Friday and needs to be completed by Wednesday.
- Where necessary or appropriate, a short explanation of any methods pupils should be using to work through the activities will be provided. This will link to the methods being used in class, but, if there are any problems, please bring these to the attention of your child's maths teacher with a note or email (to the office.3852@northbourne.oxon.sch.uk account in the first instance).

Times tables and number facts

5 minutes per day

- Pupils will be set a times table target which they should know. Where this is the case, a 'little-and-often' approach is the best one to take when learning number facts—5 minutes each day is ideal.
- There will be a range of websites available which pupils can use to practise these facts; class teachers will be happy to make some suggestions.
- Pupils will be tested on their times tables each Friday.

Home learning project—1 project a year (term 1, Boom! Bang! It's the Blitz)

1 hr per week, due in on Tuesday 30th October

- A longer piece of work to be completed over the course of around 5 weeks. Pupils in year 5 and 6 need to plan their work at the start of the project, deciding what to produce and how they will tackle the project.
- In years 5 and 6, this project will involve a written element which is explained on the introduction sent home. There will also be suggestions and pointers of other activities or work pupils may like to include in their project.
- Home learning is not a competition! All work produced will be valued and celebrated with the child.
- We are happy to try to provide any materials your child may need in the course of these projects; please encourage your child to ask their teacher where necessary.

Weekly spellings

5 minutes per day

- A set of spellings, following a spelling rule being looked at in class, will be sent home in the child's spelling book on Monday and tested on Friday.
- These should be looked at, the rule discussed, and the words practised at home ready for the child's test on Friday of the same week.

Reading

5 – 10 minutes per day

- Children need to either read to an adult, be read to by an adult, or read independently for 10 minutes or so 5 times a week...even in the final years of their primary schooling. This could be a book from the classroom, the library or from home. Reading records will be used to monitor this reading, so please either fill this in yourself or prompt your child to do so every time they read.
- Children need to ensure that their reading diary is in schools each day.

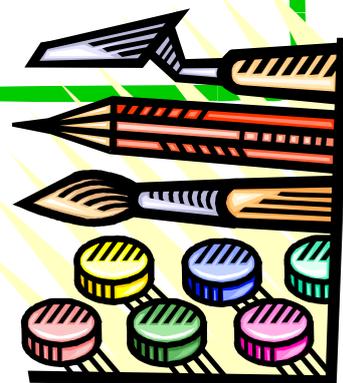
From term 3, pupils in Y6 will be set additional homework across all subjects, in the form of written activities, workbooks and worksheets. As children prepare for their SATs tests in May of Y6, extra work will be sent home over the Easter holiday to help children gain confidence in the subjects they will be tested in. Deadlines and expectations will always be made clear, either at the top of the work, through a note from your child's teacher, or a comment in the reading diary .

What feedback will I receive about the homework completed?

- Teachers will keep records of spelling and tables test results, and results from mathematics activities. Where pupils seem to be struggling with any of this learning, teachers will get in touch to discuss this with you. They will also let you know when these facts are being learnt well, either through a discussion or with certificates, stickers and other rewards.
- It is helpful to teachers to know when a child has struggled to learn any facts sent home, or found any especially easy. Please send in a note or email if this is the case; class teachers will try to respond to these, either through a brief written response or through a discussion at the start or end of the school day.
- It is helpful to have comments from home about aspects of reading which are going well or proving a struggle; please use the home-school reading diary to record these.
- All home learning work is valued. A certificate explaining the good aspects of the work will be given to each child. Often, parents and family members will be invited into school for a special event to look at the range of home learning projects produced.

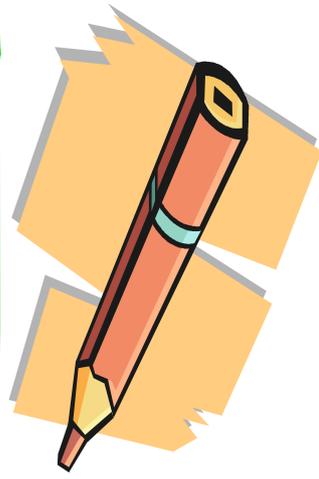


Remember, teachers are more than happy to discuss any problems and provide any further advice needed...keep us informed!



How can I help my child with their homework?

- Ensure that your child has time and space to learn the facts sent home and to read. Encourage them to get into the habit of recording all their reading in their reading diary.
- A 'little-and-often' approach is the best one to take to learning number facts and spellings—a few minutes each day is better than trying to learn them in half an hour once a week.
- Talk to your child about the methods they have been learning in class—especially in maths—as they will need to use these for their work on mathematics. We know that the way maths is taught is different to how many of us were taught, but your child will not be asked to complete any work they have not been practising in school. Where a teacher would like a specific method to be used, this will be explained on their homework sheet and is included in our Calculation Policy, available on the school website. If, after discussion, your child still struggles with this, speak to the teacher the next day.
- Keep us informed about any problems with homework—whether these are related to the activity or the timescale, we are happy to provide advice or allow extra time for work to be completed when asked in advance.
- Similarly, let teachers know about any successes to allow these to be shared and celebrated in class.



What will happen if homework isn't completed?

- To help pupils prepare for their transition to secondary school where homework becomes increasingly important, if homework isn't completed and facts aren't learned or practised at home, this will be followed up in school.
- Pupils will be asked to complete any work missed during breaktimes or lunchtimes to ensure they don't fall behind with class work.
- If homework is continually not being completed, your child's class teacher will get in touch to discuss this with you.

If you would like to clarify any information in this leaflet, or discuss anything further, please speak to your child's class teacher, Miss Hill, our assistant headteacher with responsibility for Key Stage Two, or Mr. Shaughnessy.

Throughout the year we will run workshops looking at aspects of our curriculum, such as phonics and maths, and these will explain more about how parents can help support the learning of their child at home. If you have any suggestions for workshops which would be especially helpful, please let Mr. Shaughnessy know.