



# **PARENTS GUIDE TO HOMEWORK EXPECTATIONS**

## **PUPILS IN KS1 AND KS2**

SEPTEMBER 2018

## Why do we set homework?

- To help home and school work together to ensure pupils to make the best possible progress.
- To draw on resources, knowledge and experience in pupils' homes and in the wider community to enrich the curriculum and learning.
- To enable pupils to practice skills they have learnt in school.
- To enable pupils to extend their learning.
- To encourage pupils, as they move through the school, to develop the confidence, self discipline and skills needed to study on their own, preparing them for secondary and further education.

## How much homework is set?

The homework set for pupils will focus on the school's current priority for development and raising attainment. It is the quality of homework set and completed rather than the quantity which has greatest impact on learning.

Beyond this, we will provide opportunities for pupils to pursue learning outside of school but we recognise that for some pupils and families large amounts of homework create a great deal of pressure therefore these additional opportunities will be optional.

As a school, we recognise our responsibility in ensuring that pupils are adequately prepared for their next stage in education and therefore there will be greater expectations in relation to homework for older pupils in the school.

## What homework is set?

### Minimum Expectations for All Pupils

As a school we are currently focusing on raising the attainment of all pupils in **spelling** (2018/19) therefore for all pupils this will form part of their homework during this year. All pupils (Yr2 – Yr6) will be set a weekly activity focussed on spelling. Pupils in reception and Year 1 will have activities linked to their phonics programme.

All pupils are expected to read at home **each night** either to an adult or older sibling or, for more confident readers, silently to themselves. This should be for **at least 15 minutes in KS1 and 20 minutes in KS2. All pupils must bring their reading book and reading log to school each day** – these must be in either a school book bag or a folder. Where pupils do not bring their reading book and log book to school on a regular basis, parents will be contacted by class teachers in the first instance.

It is expected that an adult at home will sign a pupil's reading log at least once each week and that on other days pupils should record their reading in their log for themselves (for younger pupils it may be necessary for an adult to record their reading each day). It would be highly beneficial if the adult signing the log could also include a comment or observation in relation to the reading completed by the child.

Where appropriate, pupils may have additional/alternative reading activities to complete - for example, beginner readers may have "sound books" to support their learning of phonics. If this is the case, class teachers will ensure that parents understand the expectations in relation to these.

All pupils in Years 1 – 4 will have a set of "Learn Its" (number facts such as multiplication tables) each term to support their mathematical development. These will be given to pupils at the start of each term to be learnt by the end of term; practice of these should be little and often, eg. 5 to 10 minutes a day and can be completed very informally - for example, when walking to school. Pupils in Years 5 and 6 who have not confidently achieved all of their "Learn Its" may also be given these to complete or revise.

## **Additional Independent Learning for All Pupils (Optional)**

**Creative Homework** - This will take the form of a selection of projects and activities linked to pupils' current learning journey. These are set on a half termly basis and will involve pupils in research activities providing further opportunities to develop their reading and other skills in a variety of situations.

It is for pupils to decide how they wish to respond to these projects, these are provided as additional opportunities for pupils who wish to complete them. It is suggested that pupils complete two short and one long task each half term. It is expected that pupils who chose to take part in these projects should be spending **no more than 20 minutes a day** (or about 2 hours each week) working on their projects.

The school will provide opportunities for pupils to share these projects in school through assemblies and class-based work. We will also ensure that pupils' efforts in completing projects will be recognised through reward systems such as class dojos and certificates.

The school also purchases some **on-line resources** such as My Maths and the PiXL Times Tables App which provide pupils with further opportunities to practice what they have been learning in school or to apply their skills in different ways. Pupils will be provided with log on details for these resources as appropriate and links to these will be available on the school website.

## **Additional Tasks for Year 6 Pupils**

All pupils in Year 6 will be set one formal homework task each week in addition to the minimum expectations above. It is expected that all Year 6 pupils will complete these tasks. These tasks will be set on a Friday and should be handed in on the following Wednesday morning. All Year 6 pupils will have a homework diary which should be signed (by a parent or responsible adult) by Wednesday morning each week to show that they are aware of the homework their child has been set. If pupils are not completing these tasks, parents will be contacted by class teachers in the first instance.

## **Special Educational Needs**

Some pupils may have tasks set for homework specifically to help them achieve targets on their ISPs (Individual Support Plans). Whenever an ISP is written for a pupil, a section is included identifying how they will be supported at home. This will be communicated to parents during regular review meetings and parent consultations.

## **Where to find information about the homework for each class**

All pupils will be given paper copies of their maths "Learn Its" at the start of each term and their Optional Creative Homework at the start of each half term. This information will also be on the class pages of our school website, [www.ivybridgeprimaryschool.net](http://www.ivybridgeprimaryschool.net)

The spelling homework will either be a sheet provided by the class teacher on a weekly basis or a task in a child's spelling book that accompanies our spelling scheme.

## Summary of homework expectations for KS1 and KS2

	Minimum expectations for all pupils				Additional, optional learning opportunities		
	Reading	Spelling	Number Learn Its	Additional Set Tasks	Creative Homework	PiXL Times Table App	My Maths
<b>Year 1</b>	15 minutes daily	1 task each week	5-10 minutes daily	n/a	20 mins a day/2 hours a week maximum	n/a	n/a
<b>Year 2</b>	15 minutes daily	1 task each week	5-10 minutes daily	n/a	20 mins a day/2 hours a week maximum	n/a	n/a
<b>Year 3</b>	20 minutes daily	1 task each week	5-10 minutes daily	n/a	20 mins a day/2 hours a week maximum	yes	yes
<b>Year 4</b>	20 minutes daily	1 task each week	5-10 minutes daily	n/a	20 mins a day/2 hours a week maximum	yes	yes
<b>Year 5</b>	20 minutes daily	1 task each week	revision	n/a	20 mins a day/2 hours a week maximum	yes	yes
<b>Year 6</b>	20 minutes daily	1 task each week	revision	I task weekly	20 mins a day/2 hours a week maximum	yes	yes