



The Discovery School Homework Policy

At The Discovery School, we value the importance of home learning and aim to ensure homework does not compromise an enriched life outside of school.

Why is homework important?

We believe that homework is beneficial to primary-aged children in the following ways:

- It promotes links between home and school and enables parents an insight to the standards and curriculum coverage in school.
- Homework provides an opportunity for parents to discuss their child's learning with them
- It provides an opportunity to build on and consolidate work learned in the classroom
- It enables extension and enrichment of the school curriculum by providing children with a different context and experiences for their learning.
- It provides opportunities for shared, positive learning experiences for parents and children
- It can encourage and develop research skills and provides opportunities for learning in a different context
- A graduated approach to homework develops confidence and self-discipline to study independently; all skills needed for the next stage in their education and life beyond.

Expectations for homework across the school

Homework at The Discovery School will focus on a wide variety of subjects as well as the wider curriculum. We are committed to ensuring that homework will be provided on a consistent basis, with sufficient time allowed for the completion of the task. Children will be given clear instructions about the activity to be undertaken. If a teacher sets homework, there is an expectation that this will be completed by the set date, to a high standard and handed in on time. Teachers will ensure that the homework task set matches the abilities of the individual. Children who have SEND will have homework set which is appropriate to their specific needs. It is the class teacher's responsibility to ensure all children can access homework. Homework will be celebrated for the effort put in, using the class reward system or the school value points.

Homework set, should be completed within the period it has been set for. Each year group will have a different day for homework to be both set and completed. This is to allow teachers to manage their workload in line with government expectations <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/school-workload-reduction-toolkit>, as well as giving families the time to complete homework. For the academic year 2022 – 2023, the following days have been set for homework to be set and handed in. If this changes, teachers must give parents as much notice as possible about the change.

The table below shows examples of homework throughout the school year for all our children:

	EYFS	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Daily reading	Reading scheme book (10 minutes)	Reading scheme book (10 minutes)	Reading scheme book (10 minutes)	Reading scheme book or a free reader book (10 minutes)	Reading a free choice book (10 minutes)	Reading a free choice book (15 minutes)	Reading a free choice book (15 minutes)
Other reading activities	Online FFT phonics books or Reading Eggs	Online FFT phonics books	Online FFT phonics books	Online FFT phonics books	Reading Plus	Reading Plus	Reading Plus
Maths activities	Learning tasks sent home.	From term 2 – number bonds	Big Maths in terms 1 and 2 Terms 3-6 times table focus learning	Times tables quizzes on Purple Mash	TT Rock Stars or Times tables quizzes on Purple Mash	My Mini Maths activities	My Mini Maths activities
Spelling activities	Phonics activities	From term 2, 5 spellings each week.	10 spellings a week	10 spellings a week	10 spellings a week	10 spellings a week	10 spellings a week
Other learning					Purple Mash topic activities	Purple Mash topic activities	Purple Mash topic activities

The following times indicate expectations for time spent on homework each week:

EYFS From January onwards 30 minutes of set work *plus reading*

Key Stage 1 60 minutes of set work *plus reading*

Key Stage 2 90 minutes of set work *plus reading*

There will be an increase in expectations for homework, as the children move into KS2, with year 3 as a transitional year. Children in years 5 and 6 should begin to show increased independence and time commitment to homework, in preparation for secondary school. Reading for enjoyment is encouraged at every stage. Homework will be marked by either the class teacher or class Teaching Assistant.

Every class teacher will present homework expectations at the beginning of the year to all parents, explaining the work to be covered and what is expected from the children. This is an important part of our

communication process, giving parents the opportunity to ask questions about any aspect of class activity. Teachers also feel that this is an appropriate opportunity to offer advice or hints on how parents can help their child to learn spellings and tables, for example.

The Role of the parent

It is hoped that parents will support the school in encouraging their children to develop a responsible attitude to their homework. The role of parents is described as:

- Supporting and encouraging the child by giving time, routine and an environment in which homework can be completed.
- Supporting the school's high expectations with regard to standards, presentation and effort.
- Engaging with reading as a pleasurable experience, sharing books with their child as well as hearing them read.
- Providing opportunities to practice maths facts, tables and spellings in a fun and engaging way.
- Taking interest in their child's homework and understanding how it links to what they are learning at home.
- Encourage independence with homework, providing support when required
- When appropriate, provide teacher with feedback with how they view their child to be learning

Parents should not feel that they are responsible for the completion of their child's homework tasks. Any difficulties with completing the set tasks should be communicated to the class teacher. Any concerns around the quality of work or effort with homework will be addressed by the teacher in school.