



18th September 2019

Dear parents/carers,

Home Learning

Two years ago, we conducted a survey regarding home learning and parents' perspective on homework / home-learning in a primary school. Having reviewed the survey information alongside extensive research regarding the impact of homework in primary schools, a new Homework Policy was written that encompassed support that parents can offer their children without the constraints of formalised, weekly, worksheet driven tasks.

Our Homework Policy states, *"Ashton Hayes is not a school at which homework dominates home and school life. We accept that not every activity will capture children and parents' imagination and that weekends can sometimes be busy. We believe that homework should be enjoyable and manageable for all concerned and that if it becomes a chore/burden/source of conflict it ceases to be a constructive aspect of teaching and learning."*

We do not specify amounts of time that must be spent on a task, preferring individual children and families to set their own routines. Individual teachers are happy to give advice. We hope the children are motivated by positive incentives and by the tasks themselves; children are not punished if they fail to complete the work."

In order to support your child with learning at home, these are the golden rules:

1. Reading is essential. Reading with and to your children, daily, has the biggest impact on their learning at this stage. In school, we will try to create positive enjoyment through regular use of story. Research has shown that *'Simply reading challenging, complex novels aloud at a fast pace repositioned poorer readers as 'good' readers, giving them a more engaged, uninterrupted reading experience over a sustained period.'* This year, we are having a whole-school reading assembly each week on top of regular reading aloud to children in classes.
2. Continuation of learning in the home.
 - a. We actively encourage parents to talk to their children about what they have learned in school. The school Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/Ashton-Hayes-Primary-School-1389725374687785/>) and Twitter (<https://twitter.com/AshtonHayesPS>) pages are used to give parents snippets of learning, which can be used as starting points for learning conversations.
 - b. Class Pages – each class has a page on the school website (www.ashtonhayes.cheshire.sch.uk) – this does not require a login to access. The website pages are used to outline how you can support your child at home, should you wish. There are topic overviews so that you know what themes your children are covering, Maths and English Home Learning Menus which contain ideas and tasks related to in-class learning, and specific support documents related to the year group your child is in.



c. Home Learning APPs / Websites:

- i. MyMaths – tasks can be set by teachers on this system – teachers will indicate to parents when a task is set. Logins for this have been allocated to all pupils from Year 1. There are numerous other activities and games that can be accessed on this system without the need for a teacher to set. It is best accessed through a computer although a recent update has stated that all content is now 'tablet friendly'.
- ii. Times Tables Rock Stars – children can be set tasks but can also access this independently. This can be accessed through a computer or an APP can be downloaded on iOS or Android devices. The children will be completing this regularly in school time as well as at home – from Year 2 onwards.
- iii. Prodigy – this is a free APP, available on iOS and Android, which is game-based and requires no teacher input. Children can independently use mathematical skills in a fun game setting.
- iv. SpellZone – all pupils from Year 2 have been set up with an individual login for this system. It is intuitive and bases activities and games on the prior learning/level of pupils. Upon first log-in, a spelling quiz is available. On completion of this quiz, pupils are provided with a personal course pathway, which reflects the spelling ability/needs of each individual pupil. This system is used in tandem with weekly spelling pattern learning. It is best accessed through a computer although the system can be used on an iPad through the Puffin Browser.
- v. SPAG.com – all pupils from Year 2 onwards have been set up with an SPAG.com login. This system, that supports specific areas of learning within spelling, punctuation and grammar, is used by teachers to set specific tasks. Teachers will inform parents and pupils when a task has been set.
- vi. Purple Mash – all pupils will be allocated a login for this online platform. The platform can be used for numerous tasks across all subject areas. Children will use this in school and will have access to it at home.
- vii. IDL – this is a specific website that supports with long-term learning of spellings. Initially designed to support children with dyslexia, this can also support any children with some difficulties in spelling. A login can be requested by contacting the class teacher.

We hope that this gives parents the information needed in order to fully support children in their learning at home. If you need any further information, please contact your class teacher – useful home-learning information will be provided at the 'Meet the Teacher' meetings this evening.

Kind regards,



Mr Hover
Headteacher