The emphasis is on how homework helps your child to learn, rather than on whether it takes a certain amount of time. For example, some children will work quicker than others and get more done in less time. The rough guidelines for primary school children are:

- Years 1 and 2: one hour per week
- Years 3 and 4: 1.5 hours per week
- Years 5 and 6: 30 minutes per day.

Your child shouldn’t be expected to spend much longer on homework than the guide times. It doesn’t matter if activities don’t take as long as the guide times as long as they are useful. Schools should organise homework carefully so that children aren’t asked to do too much on any one day.

All homework activities should be related to work that children are doing at school. However, homework should not always be written work. For younger children it will largely be:
- reading with parents or carers
- informal games to practice mathematical skills.

For older children homework activities may include:
- reading
- preparing a presentation to the class
- finding out information
- making something
- trying out a simple scientific experiment
- cooking.

Please note that we update this information leaflet and our ‘Partners in Learning’ book at regular intervals. Please contact us if you have any queries about the content.

EHPS:Feb12
Why is homework set?

Homework can be a very valuable and supportive pursuit if the children fully understand their tasks and are well supported in completing the work. It can offer the children the chance to practise newly learned skills, to investigate a particular interest, and to consolidate new learning. When set and completed within the right structure, its completion undoubtedly builds self-esteem and confidence in children.

It is, however, important to recognise that the children work hard at school all day and therefore additional work must be a planned part of the curriculum, allowing the children to continue with additional interests outside school.

The Government advise schools on the amount of homework that should be set (see back page for further information) and we have used this as the basis for our recommendations.

What type of homework is expected of my child?

The amount and variety of homework will increase as your child moves through the primary school. We offer an outline of what will typically be set.

- Spellings will be set weekly;
- Your child will have a separate homework book with their tasks clearly outlined, and the teacher will have explained the task to the children in class;
- The work will be marked as part of a lesson or individually, on its return to school;
- As the children move into Key Stage 2, the teaching staff will set regular days for homework completion and will allow sufficient time for a piece to be completed successfully. Your child will be encouraged to develop independence in managing their work.

Further guidance on how you can help your child can be found in our ‘Partners in Learning’ book which is given to every family when your child starts at Elvetham Heath Primary School. If you do not have a copy please come and ask at reception.

And finally...

Homework is an extension of what your child learns in school. If your child is having difficulty with the work set or is unsure of what to do, please talk to their class teacher. They will always be happy to help.

This booklet is intended to be a guide of what will normally take place. There will always be times and circumstances when we need to deviate from our plans. If this is the case, the children will be well informed.

Please see overleaf for Government guidance regarding homework which is correct at date of publication.

Thank you for your continued support.
What should the work involve?

Key Stage 1 (Year R - Year 2)

At Key Stage 1 the emphasis is on being supported through learning and practising the key skills.

Reading

A positive reading climate needs to be created at home through daily reading for readers and non-readers (using a variety of reading material). There should be opportunities for children to predict the developing story line, as well as discuss and talk about the story and the characters.

Spelling

Key words that form part of the class-based teaching will be sent home for additional reinforcement. The children will use the techniques learned at school to help their learning, e.g. look, cover, write, check. The purpose of learning key words is to be able to apply their correct spelling in written work, beyond being successful in a test.

Maths

In Year 2, towards the end of Key Stage 1, pupils will occasionally undertake some basic maths work to support their classroom work.

Key Stage 2 (Year 3 - Year 6)

As the children’s learning skills are developing, the expectation of home-based work increases.

Reading

Children are expected to read daily at home, and to be able to regularly share with an adult aspects of their reading, or it may involve a discussion about aspects of the plot or characterisation. The class teacher will direct any specific developments.

Spelling

On a weekly basis the children will have grouped spellings to learn according to their ability. This learning will be supported in class by additional reinforcement work.

Maths

As the children move through Key Stage 2, the range of mathematical work to be carried out at home will increase. Most mathematical work will be number based work e.g. number and multiplication patterns, but will become more specifically linked to the practical maths’ activities taking place in class. Home-based work will reinforce some of the skills work taking place in class. The children may be asked to use MyMaths on a computer.

Written work

As the children move in to the upper part of the school, they are expected to carry out some written work at home. This will always be related to work that has happened or is about to happen, in class. The written work will cover a range of curriculum areas and writing styles over the year. Typically this would include aspects of English, Science, Geography and History, and might be a report, a story, writing a letter, a map or even recording work in a grid.

At times there may be opportunities for themed topic work to be carried out by the child as part of some extended study work. Sometimes the children will be required (or given the choice) to use a computer to complete their homework. The class teacher will give clear instructions when homework is set.

How will homework be managed in school?

- Reading books will come home in your child’s book bag with a reading record for you or your child to complete;
**How can you help your child?**

We recognise that you are keen to help your children do well at school, to develop positive attitudes to learning, and to develop confidence.

We also recognise that life outside of school can be very busy, and that many of you have work commitments; the following suggestions are therefore intended to be of support to you.

**You can help your child in the following ways:**

- Provide a quiet place where they can work;
- Take time to listen to your child;
- Encourage your child to complete their work before they are too tired to be successful;
- Encourage their interest and praise their efforts;
- Help your child with reading, the meanings of words, and spellings;
- Help your child to use a dictionary, encyclopaedia or the internet;
- Occasionally take them to the library or other appropriate place to find reference material;
- Ensure that they have the appropriate writing, drawing and colouring equipment;
- Enabling access to a computer or laptop.

**We do not expect you to:**

- Teach your child; the homework will be related to work carried out in class;
- Write the answers for your child;
- Collect all the information yourself;
- Read out passages for your child to write down;
- Buy a computer/laptop – access can be arranged through the school.

*If you have helped your child in a substantial way, please note down which aspects of the work you have helped with. If a piece of work is taking significantly more time than the teacher anticipated, allow your child to stop and detail how much time it has taken.*

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**Homework at Elvetham Heath Primary School**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Homework</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year R</td>
<td>Key words for reading. Daily book/reading. Some spelling work at the later stages. Letter sounds to practise. Occasional maths activities to support learning.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Reading: 10 minutes daily. Spelling: weekly group of words. High frequency word practise. Weekly maths challenge.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>Reading: 15 minutes daily. Spelling: weekly group of words. Math/English or topic: 20-30 minutes weekly. Times tables: weekly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>Reading: 20 minutes daily. Spelling: weekly group of words. Maths: 30 minutes. English/ topic work: 30-60 minutes alternate weeks. Times tables: weekly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>Reading: 30 minutes daily. Spelling: weekly group of words. Maths: 30 minutes per week. English/topic: 30-60 minutes per week. Times tables: weekly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>Reading: 30 minutes daily - (some time allocated in school). Spelling: weekly group of words. Maths: 30 minutes per week. Grammar exercise: 20 minutes per week. English/Science/Topic/Art task: 1 hour per week - (which may include additional research areas). Review and revision leading towards assessments at the end of KS2 from March to May, instead of the above homework pattern.</td>
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