



Supporting Learning

A Guide to Homework

How will I know how well my child has done?

Teachers may make comments on the homework or tell the child how well they have done. Please feel free to ask your child's teacher if you would like more information.

How else does school support learning at home?

We have suggested a large number of on-line learning activities which support children's learning. These are linked to our school website www.northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk – look for the 'Learning Zone'. We recommend BBC 'bite-size' and also Channel 4's 'GridClub', the school username and password for which can also be found in our 'Learning Zone'.

Planet Sherston learns about your child and suggests appropriately pitched tasks to take them on. Each child therefore requires a unique user name and password. These have been distributed to each child and you are encouraged to request a copy from the office if yours has been mislaid.

From time to time we run parent information evenings, for example on Reading, assessment and internet safety. Please ask if there is something in particular about which you would like information or support.

The Homework Guide

Learning at home is an important part of a good education to back up learning which has taken place in school. It also teaches children the skills and habits of studying outside school, which they will need as they grow up, to prepare them for lifelong learning. Parents, including carers, have a key role to play in supporting learning.

Homework at North Nibley C of E Primary School is planned and is part of our approach to making the most of children's learning. Homework will be set that is right for the child's level. The amount of work and the time that we expect children to spend on homework will go up as the children move up the school. We expect children to do the homework set and to bring it back in to school on time. A timetable for the setting and return of homework is given as part of each class' termly guide to learning.

Children's learning should be a partnership between home and school, and homework should be part of the learning process. For example, it is very important that parents and children read together in the early years if children are going to be good, confident readers later on. We also know that too much homework can upset and tire a child. There must be a good balance.

Homework is an important part of the work set to help each child make progress. Homework is marked and these assessments can inform a teacher's planning, so that they know what challenges or support might be needed next. Homework and a reading diary also give parents and teachers a way of communicating with each other about the children's work and progress in school.

What will the teachers do?

Teachers will aim to keep to the timetable. They will always check homework and will give praise to children who are good about returning their homework.

How will I know when to expect homework?

Our homework policy includes a guide to how much homework each year group should have how long the child should spend on homework. The termly class letters will state when homework should be set and when homework should be returned. A copy of this letter is on the class page of our website.

What if the homework is too hard or too much?

How will I know when to expect homework?

We hope parents will encourage and support their children with homework. We would not expect the child to spend a long time with a piece of work if they are having real difficulty with it. Please stop the child and tell us about the problem

How will the homework be checked in school?

Homework like spellings or tables will be marked when the children are tested. Other homework may be marked by the teacher, the child or another child. Homework may be assessed as part of a lesson. For example, chanting tables or answering questions about information they were asked to find.

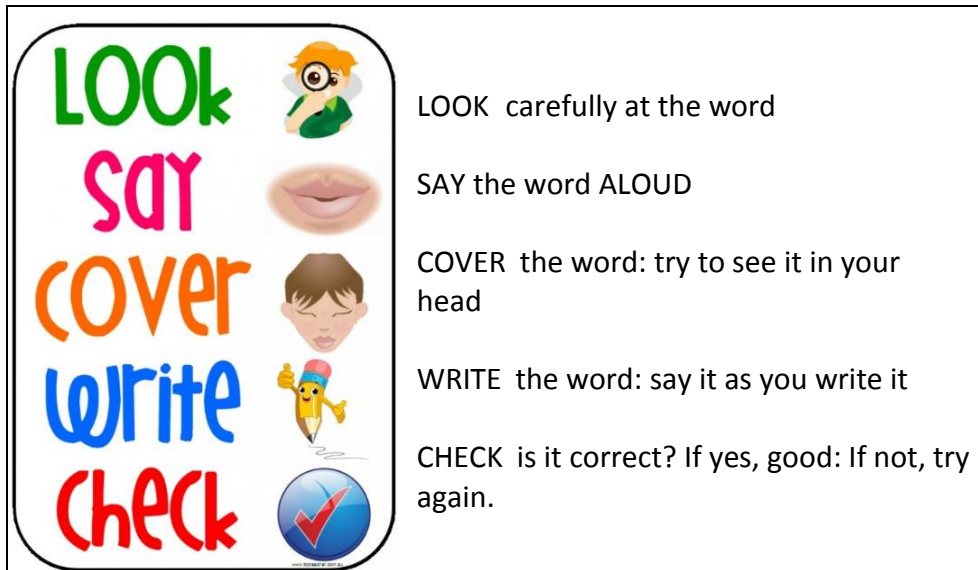
2. Spelling

Lists of words may come home with your child.

Please check that they have their spellings to learn at home!

Any time you can find to help learn spellings will help your child.

This is a good way to learn them:



We have produced a booklet with many creative ideas to help children learn their spellings (and playing “Hangman” is another great idea!) Please ask for a copy or download one from our website – www.northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk . Look for the ‘Learning Zone’.

3. Maths

- Remembering your times-tables is very important, so that Maths becomes easier for your child.
- We want children to learn their tables, especially when they get to Classes 3 and 4.
- Knowing the 3 times table does not just mean being able to count 3, 6, 9, 12, etc. It also means being able to answer straight away “What is 8×3 ?”, or “How many 3’s are there in 21?”
- As well as learning tables, we also practice number bonds. (For example, $2 + 8 = 10$; $3 + 7 = 10$; $50 + 50 = 100$) Ask your child, how many ways can you make 10?
- Maths can be fun – board games with dice can help number work and family games like Monopoly also help children understand money.
- We have a bank of maths games which can be borrowed. This is a popular activity, especially in Classes 1 and 2.
- We have produced 3 booklets on mathematical activities you might like to try across the year. Please ask for copies.
- We have uploaded ‘training’ videos tour website which show some methods of calculation.
- Just like reading, any time you can spend with your child on number work will help.

4. Targets

Our homework activities and tasks in Literacy and Numeracy give children an opportunity to continue to work towards their individual targets at home and this has a hugely positive effect on their progress in school. Your child will be given progressive targets throughout the year and you should have copies of these at home. They are discussed at parent’s evenings. Please ask for a copy if your copy has been misplaced.

Some of your questions answered

What is Homework?

Homework is *any* work or activity which children are asked to do outside school. It may be work on their own or with their parents. Homework will include a range of tasks such as learning spellings or tables, reading to others, work sheets, finishing off, design and make tasks, research and presentation tasks, preparing to give 'a talk' or playing maths games.

How will it help my child?

Homework should back up work done in school. It should practise skills already learnt and improve the child's confidence. It also helps the child learn to study for themselves and prepare for a lifetime of learning.

What will my child and I have to do?

Parents should check that reading diaries come home and go back to school every day, even if nothing is written in them. We expect the children to do the homework set and return it on time. Parents may need to work with children, for example, hear them read and talk about the book or task. There are some tips for parents in the next part of this booklet.

Advice for successful homework times

Remember that learning should be fun! Please be positive, patient and encouraging. Children are quick to feel when a parent is worried or cross. No child will make mistakes on purpose – and we all need success and encouragement.

1. Reading.

- Make sure you and your child are in a quiet place, away from the television!
- Reading together when your child is hungry, tired or upset will be less effective. Reading should be a happy time.
- Read to and with your child, as well as hearing them read.
- Show them how to read with feeling, and try using "voices" when people speak.
- If your child cannot read a word, please tell them what it is. Help them to find the sounds or blends they already know.
- Encourage them to talk about what you are reading together.
- We have produced a booklet of great questions you can use. Please ask for a copy or download one from our website.
- If you feel that the book your child is reading is too easy or too hard, please don't find fault with your child if it was their choice.
- Please talk to the teacher if you think your child always chooses the wrong books. (Use the reading diary if you like.)

Above all, please hear your child read as often as you can. It does not need much of your time, but will help your child very much in school.