



## **Homework Guidance – Key Stage 2 (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6)**



**5<sup>th</sup> Edition ~ September 2014**

Dear Parents/Carers,

Learning at home is an essential part of the good education to which all our children are entitled - it is not just about reinforcing learning in the classroom, although that is important. At Shepherd Primary School we believe that a good, well organised homework programme helps children and young people to develop the skills and attitudes they will need for successful, independent lifelong learning.

Today, your child has been given a new 'Home/School Journal' which will help them to organise their home studies, gain confidence and provide valuable ongoing communication.

You can refer to this note as a guide to what your child will bring home on a daily and weekly basis. Please support and encourage them with their tasks and praise them on their successes and achievements. We thank you in advance for your support.

### **Reading**

Children in Phase 2 will bring home their own Reading Record Book as well as their individual reading book on a daily basis. Your child's book will be assigned to them personally and should be suitable for their individual reading ability. We ask that you encourage your child to read at home every day where possible, and as a minimum, three times per week. Your child will read to an adult in school at least once a week and we ask that you support your child with their reading where possible at home. Your child's Reading Record Book will have a space for your child to record the date, the title of the book they are reading and any comments on their reading during each session. Please encourage your child to write a short comment after each reading session. This information is useful in assessing your child's understanding and enjoyment of the text they are reading. Please ensure that you sign your child's Reading Record Book each week. Your child's class teacher will take in every Reading Record Book each Monday to look at and sign. We would like to ask that you encourage your child to ensure that they have their Reading Record Book and reading book in school every day.

Please refer to the 'Helping your child with reading' leaflet for further ways to support your child at home.

### **Homework Diaries (Year 6 only)**

Children in Year 6 will be given their own Homework Diary which will be theirs to use throughout this year. Each time your child is given a homework task, they will be encouraged to record the details in their Homework Diary. Please ensure that you sign your child's Homework Diary each week. This book can also be used as a source of communication between teachers and Parents/Carers, so do please use it for any comments on homework tasks where necessary. As per the Reading Record Books, Homework Diaries will be handed in each week to be signed by your child's class teacher. Homework diaries should be brought into school every day.

### **Maths & Literacy**

Your child will be given Maths and Literacy homework each and every Thursday. This homework will be sent home in your child's Home/School Journal. These weekly tasks will support the learning which has taken place in school throughout the week and will be set at your child's ability level. We expect all Maths and Literacy homework tasks to be

completed and returned to school in your child's Home/School Journal on a specified day, the following week (your child's class teacher/s will advise you of this day). Your child's homework will then be marked by your child's teacher and returned home for you to see the following Thursday. We are hoping that by giving your child their home learning tasks every Thursday it will give you a chance to look through the task set each Thursday after school. This will give your child the opportunity to come into school on Friday to seek help or clarification on a task if they are unsure about what they are expected to do at home.

### **Maths**

In addition to these specific tasks to be carried out at home, we ask that you continue to work with your child to learn their times tables as it is essential these are learnt during Phase 2. Times tables are the foundation blocks of a large amount of learning during Years 4, 5 and 6. You will notice that your child has his/her own times table chart in his/her Home/School Journal. This gives you an indication of the times tables your child is confident with and those which require additional support and work to achieve.

We also ask that you continue to support your child's development of their mental Maths skills. This is best done in real life situations, e.g. when out shopping – asking your child to work out the change required, or working out the length of time taken for a journey etc. There are many wonderful learning opportunities which arise each day and from which children should continue their learning journey.

### **Literacy**

In addition to the specifically set tasks to be carried out at home, other homework may also encourage your child to use their Literacy skills from time to time. Speaking and listening tasks may also be set occasionally, which should be carried out with an adult at home. These tasks may help to prepare your child for written tasks which will be carried out in school and should be used as a valuable speaking and listening opportunity.

### **Spellings**

Your child will be given weekly spelling words to be learnt at home each week. These will be sent home in the Home/School Journal. These words will be linked to the sounds or spelling rules being taught and learnt in class each week. Your child's class teacher will go through the meaning of these words with the class before they are sent home each week but this may be something you wish to reinforce at home. Your child will have a whole week to learn these spelling words, ready for a spelling assessment task the following week. These assessment tasks may take the form of a traditional spelling test, a dictation exercise or a spelling investigation. Please support your child with learning their spelling words each week. There are a number of methods which help when learning how to spell a word, so please stick to something which works well for your child.

Possible ways to learn spellings may be;

- Mnemonic devices – e.g. learning to spell 'because' by learning it as '**B**ig **E**lephants **C**an't **A**lways **U**se **S**mall **E**xits'.
- Using the 'Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check' method. This encourages your child to 'see' and 'hear' the word, and to see for himself/herself if he/she has spelt it correctly. **Look** at a spelling word. **Say** the spelling word. **Cover** the spelling word. **Visualise** the covered word in the mind. **Write** the word from memory. **Check** what has been written with the uncovered word.
- Repetition of the spelling word.
- Saying the word as it is written, e.g. 'scissors'.
- Writing the spelling word and using it in a sentence. This is particularly useful when learning homophones (words which sound the same but are spelt differently), e.g. **here** and **hear**.

### **Creative Curriculum Topic Homework & other Home Learning tasks**

From time to time, your child may be given home learning tasks which are linked to their class 'Creative Curriculum Topic' for the term. These tasks will always be linked to what is being learnt in class and may involve research (using the internet or text books), speaking and listening tasks, written tasks or bringing something in to be used in class.

### **In Conclusion**

You will see on the next page a 'Phase 2 Homework Schedule' chart which you may like to put on your fridge or notice board at home as a reminder for your child, so they know which days they have to bring certain things into school. You may wish to write in additional things to remember, such as PE kits, to help you. Please encourage your child to be responsible for handing in their homework and for bringing the correct things into school with them each day, but of course we know that they will probably require your support in order to remember everything each day!

Homework partnerships with parents, carers and pupils are vital to extending high quality learning beyond the limits of our school day. By working together here at Shepherd Primary School, we can ensure that young people are equipped with the disciplines and understanding they need to continue learning throughout their adult lives.

We are aware that this will be a new system and way of organising homework for those of you with children in Year 5 and 6 and as always, we welcome and value your feedback on these homework guidelines. If you have any further questions or queries, then please do get in touch with myself or any one of our Phase 2 team.

We look forward to working with you.

Mrs G Kirkpatrick  
Key Stage 2 Leader

The Phase 2 team;

- Mrs Kirkpatrick – Key Stage 2 Leader & Year 6 Teacher
- Mrs Leveridge – Year 5 Teacher
- Mr Turton – Year 4 Teacher
- Mr Charter – Year 3 Teacher

# Phase 2 Homework Schedule

	<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>
<b>BRING INTO SCHOOL</b>	<p>Homework Diaries (to be signed by teacher)</p> <p>Reading Journals (to be signed by teacher) &amp; reading book</p> <p>Home/School Journal (containing completed homework to be handed in)</p>	<p>Homework Diaries</p> <p>Reading Journals &amp; Book</p>	<p>Homework Diaries</p> <p>Reading Journals &amp; Book</p>	<p>Homework Diaries</p> <p>Reading Journals &amp; Book</p>	<p>Homework Diaries</p> <p>Reading Journals &amp; Book</p>
<b>TAKE HOME FROM SCHOOL</b>	<p>Homework Diaries</p> <p>Reading Journals &amp; Book</p>	<p>Homework Diaries</p> <p>Reading Journals &amp; Book</p>	<p>Homework Diaries</p> <p>Reading Journals &amp; Book</p>	<p>Homework Diaries</p> <p>Reading Journals &amp; Book</p> <p>Home/School Journal (containing new Maths, Literacy and Spellings homework)</p>	<p>Homework Diaries</p> <p>Reading Journals &amp; Book</p>