



Dream, believe, inspire, achieve.

# Homework Information Booklet for Parents

Updated Sept 17

## **Our vision**

At Old Park we value the partnership between school and home. Homework plays an important part in this partnership and strive to work in collaboration. We value parents as first educators and see the value of extending the learning journey outside the classroom. Our homework policy aims to provide families with enrichment activities that can be done at their own pace. It offers the opportunity for children to take ownership of their learning in an interesting and creative way. The homework provides opportunities for families to spend quality time together, creating memories whilst consolidating the learning journey within school.

## **Homework grids**

These will be given out at the start of every term (September, January, April). The homework grids have been created to offer a variety of learning opportunities, differing in challenge and focus and length. They have been designed to be more flexible in comparison to giving weekly homework tasks to allow families to choose the best time for them to complete, as we are aware of the demands facing a modern family. Families are asked to choose a minimum of three tasks to complete across the term however you are encouraged to complete as many as you wish. The grids will guide you in choosing tasks which might include written tasks, cooking, art, ICT, maths and outdoor experiences. This flexible approach helps to engage all learners in this interesting and enjoyable format.

## **Guidance for homework:**

The homework grids should contain useful information to help you complete the tasks. However, if you would like further support please feel free to speak to your child's class teacher. We will also offer INSPIRE workshops in school time. These workshops will give you the opportunity to experience, ask questions and complete a homework task with your child, with the support of the class teacher. Your child's homework will be shown during Show and Tell sessions in class. Your child may be awarded Class Dojo or homework recognition stickers for their efforts. All homework will be sent back home at the end of every term to make room for the new term ahead. Homework will not be marked following our in-school policy however verbal praise and feedback will be assured.

### **Curriculum Map:**

Along with the homework grid, you will also be given a curriculum map for your child in the Autumn Term. They are also available on our website, if you need to access a copy. These provide information on the topics your child will cover in school. There is also advice on the English and Maths skills you should be encouraged to practice at home. Useful website will be provided to help with this.

### **Maths (mymaths.co.uk)**

The school uses My Maths to deliver maths homework to pupils. It is an online platform where your children can log in and complete the tasks set for them by their teachers. The children should know their log in or it will have been sent home with the children. If you do not have your child's log in then please contact your child's teacher.

Homework will be set on a Friday for completion the following Friday. Maths tasks will be set on a weekly basis as a maximum.

### **Reading at home:**

Alongside the homework, it is an expectation that your child should read regularly throughout the week. Your child will be given a reading diary to fill out at home. We encourage children to read regularly at home, either independently or with a family member. School reading books will be given however your child is more than welcome to read suitable books from home too. We have a partnership with Wednesbury Library and we encourage families to use this facility too. Children should be encouraged to read different text types, such as local newspapers, age-appropriate magazines and comics, websites and e-books.

### **Spellings:**

We teach spelling rules and patterns on a daily basis in school and we have not found spelling tests to be useful in improving the spelling ability of children. Therefore, spelling lists will not be sent home to practice. The children can apply the spelling lessons from school within their homework projects. We find that this application is much more useful in consolidating their knowledge.

### **Year 5 Spellings Only:**

In year 5, we are currently trialling a new approach to teaching spelling. A list of words for the half term will be sent home for children to practise. Each week, there will be a quiz for the children to complete; this could be individually, in pairs or groups. This will be a way of testing their knowledge and application of rules they have learnt in spelling lessons; sentences will be dictated and children will work in pairs to write the correct spelling. The list of common exception words will be sent home for their year group and previous years if needed.

### **Handwriting guidance:**

Presentation is a key part of the homework scheme and we encourage the children to take pride in their work. We work hard on modelling these expectations within school and encourage the same at home. Guidance on our handwriting policy can be found on our website.

### **Y6 and 2 SATs Preparation:**

During the Spring Term, Year 2 and Year 6 will be given a revision booklet as a replacement for the homework grids. This helps support the work in school towards the SATs tests in the Summer Term. After the SATs have been completed, Year 2 and 6 will revert back to the homework grid. For further clarification, please speak to your class teacher.

### **101 list:**

Your child will also be given a booklet of enrichment activities called the 101 list. This encourages families to take part in a variety of challenges and experiences, which relate closely to the homework grid activities given to each year group. Families are encouraged to take photos and write about these experiences as a memoir of their days at primary school.

