

## Holy Trinity C of E Primary School

### English and Mathematics Homework Guidelines

Homework is an essential part of learning at Holy Trinity C of E Primary School. The school aims to provide the opportunity for all pupils to consolidate and further develop their learning at home. It is understandable that parental views with regard to the amount of homework that a child is expected to complete differ. Therefore, the school would like pupils to spend short, focused amounts of time completing set homework tasks. If homework becomes onerous, parents are encouraged to open a dialogue with the child's class teacher.

#### Mathematics

Rapid recall and basic number facts are a really important part of children's Mathematical development and are a vital part of the education that pupils at Holy Trinity C of E Primary School receive. To support this, homework for each year group is based on key year group number facts which pupils are tested on **each day** in 'Superhero Challenges' and 'Calculation' tests on a **Friday** each week. **Pupils are expected to practise number facts that they are currently working on each week so that they can succeed in Superhero Challenges and Calculation tests.**

#### **What are Superhero Challenges?**

Effective understanding and recall of times tables is the foundation of most of the maths children will do at primary school and the curriculum puts a massive emphasis on knowing them early. In order to help ensure this happens, beating superheroes seems a fantastic way to move forward! Accordingly, we will use the following certificate reward system:

Superhero Challenges focus on rapid recall, usage and application of times table skills. Children are challenged to defeat a superhero, who is assigned specific times tables, within a given time. At the end of each half term children are given a final Superhero Challenge in order to show off their knowledge in an application based activity.

#### **What do pupils need to learn?**

- INCREDIBLE HULK- Can count on or back in ones, twos, fives and tens (By the end of year 1)
- BATMAN- 2x, 5x, 10x (By the end of year 2)
- HAWK-GIRL- 3X, 4X
- THOR, 7X, 8X (By the end of year 3)
- BLACK WIDOW- 9X, 11X, 12X
- SUPERMAN- All with division ( By the end of year 4)
- CATWOMAN- All with place value- THU and tenths (By the end of year 5)\*
- IRONMAN- 2 digits X 1 digit (e.g. 74 X 7)
- WONDERWOMAN- Fractions, decimals and percentages of quantities (e.g. 20% of 25,  $\frac{1}{4}$  of 50)
- MR INCREDIBLE- Number Knowledge (Squares, Cubes, Powers, Roots and Primes)

## How can you help your child prepare?

Parents can support their children with number facts in a variety of ways. Here are some ideas of how you can support your child at home:

- Ask random questions and aim to get a rapid response i.e.  $3+2=\bigcirc$ ? Can you count forwards in tens to 100? What is  $7^2$ ? What is 9 times 4?
- Focus on the number facts that children find the most difficult! Often, we have a tendency to focus on facts that we already know and spend little time trying to remember the most difficult. For instance, the most difficult times tables are:  $6\times 8$ ,  $6\times 9$ ,  $7\times 6$ ,  $7\times 7$ ,  $7\times 8$ ,  $7\times 9$ ,  $8\times 9$ .
- Test your child at home! Children like a challenge, so do a quick written test of 5 facts.
- Turn the card! Write number facts or times tables questions on paper or card. Children must turn over the card and answer the question in a given card.
- Match! Create match cards where children must turn over cards to match a question to an answer by remembering its position (just like pairs).
- Play games that can provoke discussion about number facts and times tables eg snakes and ladders, ludo, dominoes etc.
- Count! Counting using objects is essential for younger children's mathematical development. Use dice, counters, buttons, toys, or anything that helps children to see maths!
- Use the internet! There are many websites that have games and activities that children can use to practise their rapid recall of number facts.
- If you are not sure of certain Mathematical vocabulary, please use [www.amathsdictionaryforkids.com](http://www.amathsdictionaryforkids.com) or alternatively you can visit 'Howtotube' on our school website.

### **Writing**

#### **Talk Homework**

Talk homework is to provoke thinking around a particular theme. For instance, pupils may be asked to prepare for a piece of writing by chatting to an adult about the topic that they are going to write about. Talk homework is intended to prepare pupils for the next stage in their learning or consolidate their understanding through talk. Talk homework will be shared verbally in class and acknowledged by the teacher.

#### **Research Homework**

Pupils may be asked to research particular topics using various sources of information outside of school. For instance, pupils may be asked to use the Internet or visit a local library to find out about something they are learning about in school. Research homework is intended to prepare pupils for the next stage in their learning, consolidate their understanding and develop their independent research skills. Research homework will be shared verbally in class and acknowledged by the teacher.

#### **Task Homework**

Pupils may occasionally be asked to complete a task that involves applying skills that they are learning in school. For instance, pupils may be asked to complete a worksheet that involves working through a series of questions. Task homework is intended to allow pupils to practise what they have been learning at home. Task homework will be marked by the teacher.

### **Reading**

At Holy Trinity C of E Primary School we actively promote reading for pleasure, therefore we believe it is essential that our children share and enjoy a variety of different texts both at school and at home. Therefore, children are provided with a home reading book, which is specifically targeted to their needs. Children who are reading books based on their phonetical knowledge also have access to a selection of Bug Club books through their individual accounts. Alongside this they are given a Reading Record Book. As a guide the school would like pupils to record a comment in their book at least 3-4 times per week and for there to be a healthy dialogue between home and school to encourage and support pupils' reading development. At the back of the Reading Record Book, there are a number of tips and questions for parents to use to support their children's reading at home.

### **Spelling**

Spelling is an important life skill and we develop this within Holy Trinity by following the National Curriculum and its specific expectations for children within different year groups. As part of our whole school homework policy all year groups set weekly spellings based around specific spellings patterns/rules/groups. Children are given a pre-test to see how many words they already know. If they get approximately 70% correct in the pre-test they are given challenge words to extend and challenge them. Pupils are given a copy of the words that they are to learn by the class teacher after their pre-test. These words are then tested again a week later. **Pre-tests take place on a Tuesday, pupils then need to learn their words for the following Monday when they will complete their test.**