

Home Learning at King Athelstan

At King Athelstan we promote meaningful learning outside of the classroom to instil a lifelong passion for learning; we encourage our pupils to take part in sports, clubs and enrichment activities outside of school, pursuing personal interests and hobbies. To support this, our homework is underpinned by the following aims:

- *consolidating basic skills in maths and English including: reading, spelling and times tables*
- *fostering an enjoyment of learning and developing higher order thinking and enquiry skills, by celebrating the curriculum through "Thinker's Project" homework*

Reading

Children are assessed on the school reading scheme and are allocated a colour banded book based on their reading ability. (They can also take a "Bucket List" book from their book corner which promotes reading for pleasure.) Parents/Carers are encouraged to listen to their child read **every day** and complete their Reading Record Book, by writing the title, page number and date. Reading to your child is just as important as listening to them, so this is highly recommended. When children read at home, they are rewarded with a 'dot' on their reading card; this in turn leads to certificates and prizes to promote reading. If children are continuously not reading at home, teachers will contact parents/carers and endeavour to find a solution. Children in KS2 are expected to use their Vocabulary Book Marks to note down any tricky vocabulary that they come across when reading, and either check the word with an adult or look it up themselves. *Please see appendix for "The Importance of Reading at Home" document.

EYFS: The key focus for home reading in Reception is repetition. Children are to keep the same Read Write Inc book for one week, before changing it on a Friday; their weekend book will be selected from the wider home reader books. Children will also receive a common exception and high frequency word book mark every half term.

EYFS send home a holiday homework challenge that is sent out at the end of each half term. This supports the home school link and allows the children to share their experiences and home learning opportunities with us. This is an important feature in EYFS and forms part of each child's Learning Journey.

Basic Skills

It is important that children have a secure understanding of the basic skills learnt at school by consolidating them at home with the support of parents and carers. To ensure that homework is not onerous, our basic skills homework is linked to online games and practice-based learning, that children can rehearse with minimal support. This is outlined below:

Maths:

- **Weekly times table practice:** teachers will indicate which times table the children are working on by highlighting their times table ladder at the front of their homework books. Children either practise writing these in their homework books or on "**Times Table Rock Stars**" online. Learning their times tables is imperative, as it supports with all areas of mathematics. The children will be tested formally in Year 4 from the academic year 2019-2020 as part of the new national assessment arrangements; they are expected to know all their times tables to 12 x 12.
- **Numbots:** Numbots is an online resources where children can practise their number recognition, number bonds, addition and subtraction skills, so that these become fluent and they can leave their fingers behind.
- **KIRF:** (Key Instant Recall of Facts) are to be practised over a half term with a cover letter to parents/carers, informing them of what to focus on. Some children may be working on a previous year's KIRF. Teachers will highlight in their homework book on their KIRF ladders when they are secure and can move on.

- **Access to j2e.com (j2blast):** all Kingston Schools have access to this online resource and children are encouraged to use this site to practise basic maths skills and spellings.

Spelling:

- In Year 1, words with the sound they have been learning are given out to practise along with a nonsense (alien) word along with how to write that particular grapheme (letters that represent a sound). Children will also receive a common exception and high frequency word book mark every half term.
- In Year 2, phonics sounds are given out that the children have been learning that week. They will also receive some common exception and high frequency words each week to learn. The children will then be tested on all of these weekly. When children have finished the Read Write Inc programme, parents and carers will receive the spelling rule/s that their child has been learning.
- In Years 3/4/5/6 spellings are given and then tested on a weekly basis; these are words with spelling rules and high frequency words for their year group. Children will record their test score in their homework books for parents/ carers to see.

Year 6

Year 6 will be given at least two pieces of paper based revision to support their transition to secondary school and their SATs tests at the end of the year, which will be discussed with parents/carers at the Year 6 Autumn meeting.

Thinker's Project

Enrichment homework will be set at the beginning of a theme (i.e. once per term). Pupils will have the opportunity to choose their areas of interest within a theme and produce a project based piece of work which is linked to Blooms Taxonomy. Thinker's project homework is **optional**, but completion will be encouraged by all staff. Pupils will pick at least 2 tasks per term which will be completed to a high standard, however they can complete more than 2 tasks if they wish.

Additional Homework

No additional homework will be set. If parents/carers would like their child to partake further in out of school learning, they are encouraged to seek online resources (see list below) or to purchase home learning resources from high street book shops (such as Scholastic and Collins work books). They can also further explore their termly Thinker's Project homework.

Useful Websites:

Maths and English games:

<http://www.j2e.com>

Maths and English games:

<http://www.ictgames.com/>

Sign up free to Oxford Owl for eBooks to read online:

https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/user/sign_up.html

Reading Support and Advice for Parents

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/tips-and-advice/>

Busy Things <https://www.busythings.co.uk/>

Phonics Practice:

<https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/InteractiveResources.htm>

Timestable Rockstars:

<https://trockstars.com/login>

First News - children's newspaper:

<https://live.firstnews.co.uk/first-news-today/>

KS1 English and Maths:

<https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/levels/z3g4d2p>

KS2 English and Maths:

<https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/levels/zbr9wmn>