

King Athelstan Primary School

Home Learning Policy (Expectations)



King Athelstan Primary School - Inspiring Excellence

We believe in the relentless pursuit of excellence to achieve high standards.

We are driven to inspire our school community to be aspirational, ambitious and to "dream big."

We empower children with choices which prepare them for a life of opportunity.

We teach children that hard work delivers success; we encourage children to take risks and ask brilliant questions in order to inspire a love and passion for learning.

We teach children to think.

We put children's happiness and welfare at the heart of everything we do.

We value friendship, kindness and respect.

We celebrate the excellence in each individual.

We expect families to work with us to form a strong team around every child.

We teach children to be good citizens.

We are proud of our school: Come as you are and leave us great.

Responsibility: Deputy Head		Governors committee: N/A	
Status: Not statutory		Review Cycle: Annual	
Date reviewed: 01.12.2025	Date agreed: 01.12.2025	Next review: 01.12.2026	

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*

Google Classroom:

[Google Classroom](#) is the platform we use to communicate with children, parents and carers about spelling homework and special announcements.

Reading

EYFS and KS1 RWI eBooks: As part of your child's homework, teachers will select the specific RWI eBook online on the [Oxford Owl](#) website that your child has been reading in school for you to support them reading at home across the week. It is important that they read these eBooks again and again at home to improve their fluency and expression. Login and view the eBooks in the 'Homework' section. There will also be a quiz to complete to further consolidate their learning. Teachers can see when these books and quizzes have been accessed online. Parents should record what the children have read in their reading record. [See here for reading record example.](#)

In KS1, an additional home reader will be sent home weekly to support the love of reading and to give opportunities to read a wider range of texts. Please read these several times over the week; the repetition will help to build their fluency and confidence as they move from sounding out the words, to sight reading fluently with expression. Children will also receive a common exception and high frequency word book mark every half term and a library book to promote reading for pleasure. [Click here for more information about how to access Oxford Owl.](#)

Year 2 and KS2: When children have completed the RWI reading scheme, children are assessed on the school reading scheme and are allocated a colour banded book based on their reading ability or a book from the book corner. Parents and carers should listen to their child read **every day** and complete their Reading Record Book, by writing the title, page number, date and a short comment. If children are 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.

Promoting the Love of Reading: 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. They can also take a "Bucket List" book from their book corner which promotes reading for pleasure. Reading to your child is just as important as listening to them, so this is also highly recommended.

*Please see appendix for ["The Importance of Reading at Home"](#) document.

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.

Maths:

- **Numbots:** For EYFS and KS1 [Numbots](#) is an online resource 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.
- **Weekly times table practice:** In Y2 and KS2, teachers will indicate which times table the children are working on by highlighting their times table ladder in their reading records. Children either practise these

by writing them down, or by playing "[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 as part of the national assessment arrangements (MTC Check); they are expected to know all their times tables to 12 x 12.

- **KIRF: ([Key Instant Recall of Facts](#))** are to be practised over a half term – these can be found on the school [website](#). Teachers will test children on these skills over the half term. Some children may be working on a previous year's KIRF – parents and carers will be informed by class teachers if this is the case.
- **Access to [j2e.com](#) (j2blast).** All Kingston Schools have access to these online resources and children are encouraged to use these sites to further 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 and 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. [Click here for more information.](#)
- 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, teachers will set spelling rule/s that their child has been learning on Google Classroom and these can be practiced in their homework books.
- In Year [3 and 4](#) / [5 and 6](#) spellings are set on Google Classroom and then tested on a weekly basis; these are words with spelling rules and high frequency words for their year group. Children can practise these in their homework books and 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 a week 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. Parents and carers are also encouraged to purchase [CGP SATs practice books](#) to support with SATs preparation.

Thinkers' Project

EYFS: Holiday homework challenges are sent home 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.

KS1/KS2: 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. **Exhibitions** are held termly in the hall to celebrate children's learning. **Click here for:** [Autumn](#). [Spring](#). [Summer](#) ideas.

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](#), [CGP](#) and [Collins](#) work books). They can also further explore their termly Thinker's Project homework.

Useful Websites:

White Rose Maths:

<https://whiterosemaths.com/resources/>

Maths and English games:

<http://www.j2e.com>

Maths and English games:

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

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/>

Times tables: <https://www.timestables.co.uk/>

Phonics Practice:

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

Times Table Rockstars:

<https://ttrockstars.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>

Suggested Weekly Timings

Reception: Weekly Expectations			
Subject	Suggested Time	Task	Format
Reading	20 mins - Daily	Read with: RWI eBook	Online - login needed Write in reading record: date/title/page no.
		Read to: bedtime story	A book to enjoy and broaden vocabulary and story experience!
Maths	10 mins 3x a week	Numbots	Online - login needed.
Phonics	5 mins 3x a week	Practice reading and writing sounds learnt in school	Google Classroom

*Nursery send home book packs in the spring term

*Reception will be sending home additional practice materials to targeted children

KS1: Weekly Expectations			
Subject	Suggested Time	Task	Format
Reading	20 mins - Daily	Read online: RWI eBook	Online - login needed Write in reading record: date/title/page no.
		Read to: bedtime story (+ additional home reader)	A book to enjoy and broaden vocabulary and story experience!
Maths	10 mins 3x a week	Numbots (Y1/Y2) TT Rockstars (Y2)	Online - login needed.
		KIRF number facts	See website
Spelling/ Phonics	5 mins 3 x a week	Practise phonics/spellings	Y1 - phonics in homework books Y2 - spellings posted to Google Classroom

*Please access J2e via LGFL for additional home learning along with 'Thinkers' Project' tasks

KS2: Weekly Expectations			
Subject	Suggested Time	Task	Format
Reading	30 mins - Daily	Read with: home reader	Write in reading record: date/title/page no.
		Read to: bedtime story	A book to enjoy and broaden vocabulary and story experience!
Maths	10 mins - Daily	TT Rockstars	Online - login needed
		KIRF number facts	See website
Spelling/ Phonics	5 mins - Daily	Practise spellings	Posted to Google Classroom

*Year 6 receive additional curriculum practice as outlined in our Home Learning Policy

*Please access J2e via LGFL for additional home learning along with 'Thinkers' Project' tasks and CGP books for extra SATs practice

Year 1 homework appendix:

Phonics and Reading:

In Year 1, children learn a new sound and practise previously learned sounds every day through our reading programme: RWI (Read Write Inc.). So that children can practise these sounds with you, we will be sending them home on a Thursday each week. Please hand books back on a Tuesday to ensure the next set of sounds can be stuck in. This is practice and will be checked but not marked by a teacher.

The format looks like this:

Here, your child can practise how to **write** the grapheme (letters that make up the sound). Please

When you see an alien, it is not a real word; these words will appear in the phonics

This week we have been recapping Set 2 sounds.

1. Practice **reading** and **writing** the words listed below. Please add the sound buttons.
2. Choose one or two words and write a sentence with that word in. E.g. The chair was green.

	Attempt 1	Attempt 2	Attempt 3
light			
chair			
song			
fork			
start			
enjoy			

preeq

strayn

crout

Red words

was

the

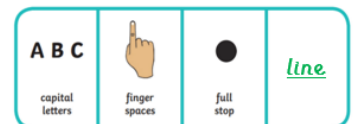
you

We have included an optional challenge to write 1 or 2 sentences. There are lines on the back of the

These words are 'red' words that we do not sound out. These are words we just learn to read.

There are lines on the back of the homework sheet for your child to have a go at writing the sentences. These are our reminders for what makes a super sentence.

Children will also receive a list of high frequency words to practise every half term, which are words that can't always be sounded out, such as: *some, could, what, was* etc.



The best way to support your child's development of decoding and blending skills is to hear them read their RWI (Read Write Inc.) book every day for 20 minutes. This book is set weekly, is also read in class, and can be accessed online via Oxford Owl: www.OxfordOwl.co.uk

If your child finishes the book within this time, ask them to read it again. Reading something familiar really helps to build their fluency and expression. Every time they read, they will receive a 'dot' in their reading record. Once they have a whole card of dots, they will earn a certificate or a prize. Your child will also bring home other books at their level so they have a physical book to enjoy if the RWI book is quite short. However, please make the RWI books online your focus.

At the end of the year, Year 1 children are required to take a Phonics Screening Check, to assess their phonics knowledge and blending ability. These scores will be officially communicated to families in the end of year reports, however teachers will keep you informed of their phonics progress throughout the year. Children must score 32 out of 40 to pass the screening check.

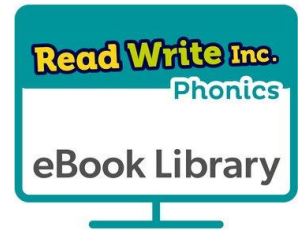
Oxford Owl: Your child has a unique username and password - this is the same as their Google Classroom login.

Username: the start of their Google Classroom email (the text before the @ sign)

Password: the same as their Google Classroom password

School Code: mab5

RWI eBook Library (Oxford Owl Read Write Inc.) Appendix.



- RWI eBooks with tailored books for your child to read
- Logins are the same as your child's Google Classroom user name and password
- School Code = mab5
- This is part of our reading homework policy; please ensure you are reading these eBooks at home until your child can read the book fluently and with expression.
- Please continue to read the home reader books alongside the RWI eBooks in KS1
- www.oxfordowl.co.uk

You can now access the RWI books your child is reading at school as part of their reading homework, through the Oxford Owl Read Write Inc. (RWI) eBook Library. This engaging platform offers a wide range of digital books tailored to support your children's reading development.

What is Oxford Owl?

Oxford Owl is an interactive online library that provides access to a collection of high-quality eBooks designed for children. The RWI eBook Library specifically includes books that align with our Read Write Inc. phonics program, making it an excellent tool for reinforcing what your child is learning in school.

RWI eBooks:

As part of your child's homework, teachers will select the specific RWI book that your child has read in school for you to support them reading at home. It is important that they read these books again and again at home to improve their fluency and expression. When you login, you will see these eBooks in your child's 'Homework' section. There will also be a quiz to complete to further consolidate their learning. Teachers can see when these books and quizzes have been accessed online.

To ensure all children develop the skill to be able to confidently blend and read fluently, we are now making reading the RWI books online a priority in our homework policy. In KS1, an additional home reader will be sent home weekly to support the love of reading and to give opportunities to read a wider range of texts. Please read these several times over the week; the repetition will help to build their fluency and confidence as they move from sounding out the words, to sight reading fluently with expression.

Example reading record below to show the type of entries that could make throughout the week (see below).

Reception Families

To begin with, your child will bring home a Lilac book. Some of these books have single words or no words at all and are designed to help develop your child's:

- Language skills - by encouraging them to talk about the pictures
 - Inference skills - by helping them make predictions and think about what is happening in the story
- When your child is ready, they will then move on to Ditty sheets or Red Ditty books.

Individual Logins:

To ensure your child can access the eBook Library, we have created individual logins for each student. Your child has a unique username and password - this is the same as their Google Classroom login.

Username: the start of their Google Classroom email (the text before the @ sign)

Password: the same as their Google Classroom password

School Code: mab5

Accessing the Library:

Go to the Oxford Owl website at www.oxfordowl.co.uk



Click on "Log in" and then enter your child's username and password as a 'student'.

Once logged in, you will see that your child's teacher will have set 'homework' which will be to access the RWI books that your child is reading at school along with a quiz. Your child can also browse the available eBook library, read them online, and enjoy interactive features that make reading fun!

Some useful terminology:

- **Green words** - words that can be sounded out using their phonic knowledge
- **Red words** - words that have to be learnt by sight
- **Sound out (Fred talk)** - say the sounds e.g. c-a-t separately
- **Blend** - put the sounds together to read the word
- **Sight read** - read the word without having to sound it out
- **Fluency/fluent** - To be able to read without sounding out
- **Expression** - To be able to read with feeling and use a different tone of voice

Example Reading Record:

Date/Book	Comment
30.09.25 Black Hat Bob	Able to sound out some words using their phonic knowledge. Sounded out h-a-t and then could blend. Struggled with red word: 'said'.
01.10.25 Black Hat Bob	Still sounding out most words but able to blend them more accurately. Sounded out h-a-t at the beginning of the book but by the last page recognised this word by sight.
02.10.25 Black Hat Bob	Recognised many words by sight this time and is beginning to become more fluent in their reading. Still struggling with 'said'.
03.10.25 Black Hat Bob	Reading most words on sight now and has mastered 'said'! Is starting to use some expression in their voice.
04.10.25 Black Hat Bob	Read the whole book with fluency and used great expression to show what Black Hat Bob had said. Completed the quiz.



King Athelstan Primary School: Importance of Daily Reading

Why it is so important that you hear your child read, or read with your child **every** day...

Child **A** reads for **20** minutes
per night, 5 times a week



Child **B** reads for **4** minutes
per night...or not at all



In one week:
100 minutes of reading



In one week:
20 minutes of reading



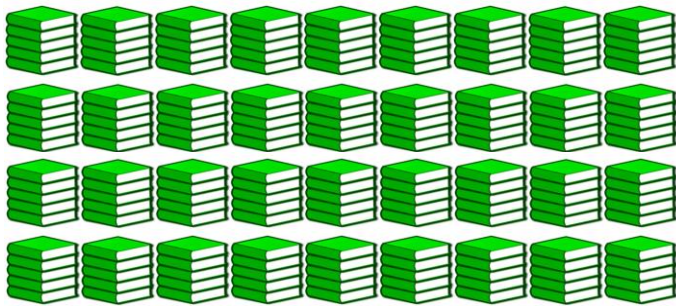
In one month:
400 minutes of reading



In one month:
80 minutes of reading



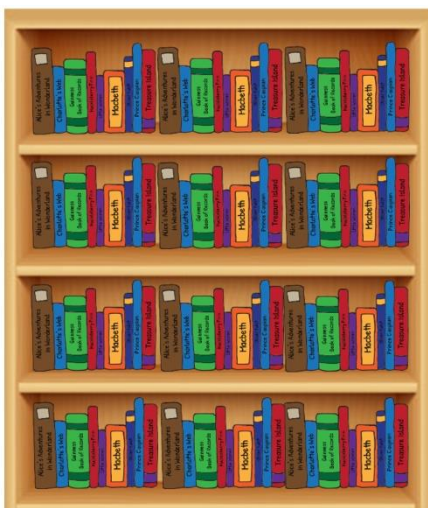
In one school year (9 months):
3,600 minutes of reading



In one school year (9 months):
720 minutes of reading



By the end of Year 6:
28,800 minutes of reading
(80 school days)



By the end of Year 6:
5,760 minutes of reading
(16 school days)



Which child would you expect to be better at reading?
Which child would you expect to be better at writing?
Which child would you expect to have a broader vocabulary?
How do you think each child views themselves as a learner?

