



Home Learning Policy

Policy lead:	Head teacher
Policy reviewed and updated:	September 2022
Date for next review:	September 2024

Introduction

At Sparkwell All Saints Primary School we recognise and value the contribution that learning in the home environment can make to children's education. This policy sets out the purpose and benefits of home learning and the guidelines we follow when setting home learning activities for our children. We know that the varied opportunities our parents provide for their children are valuable and we do not want homework to prevent children having time to attend out of school clubs and activities, or just enjoy family time and we also acknowledge the benefits in children having time to 'switch off' from school and choose what they would like to do.

Aims:

Our school believes that home learning should:

- Involve parents and carers in their child's education
- Be planned by teachers alongside the other elements of children's learning
- Consolidate and reinforce a wide variety of skills and understanding in a supportive environment
- Be varied, not just written tasks
- Provide children with the opportunity to learn in different settings
- Reflect a range of learning styles
- Develop progressively according to the age and ability of the children
- Encourage children to talk about what they are learning
- Encourage children to develop the self-confidence and discipline needed to study independently
- Fit into family life
- Be manageable for teachers
- Link to our school values of respect, creativity, responsibility and resilience

What does Sparkwell Home Learning look like?

Having consulted staff, Trustees and parents we have agreed the following 3 strands for our home learning:

Reading: This is the most important learning that parents can support with; regular and frequent reading and discussion of books can make a huge difference to children's ability in many areas. We hope that parents can sit down to read with their child at least every other day, for older children this may involve taking them to a library or bookshop to find suitable

books and talking about their reading with them. Parents also have access to Reading Eggs and Bug Club for online reading and phonic games.

Spellings: Once children are ready to learn key words and spelling patterns (usually from Year 1) these will be sent home on a weekly basis, differentiated to the needs of the child. Frequent, regular practice is the best way of learning these using 'look, cover, say, write, check'.

Maths skills: There are lots of important skills that children need to learn and parents are encouraged to help with these at home. In the early days this involves counting and number recognition and counting in steps of 2, 5 or 10. Once children are ready (usually Year 2) they need to start learning times tables. Mental maths home learning activities are designed to consolidate mathematical facts taught in class. We advise the 'little and often' approach to practicing mental maths skills, for example, practicing number bonds on a car journey or reciting times tables during a walk. We subscribe to websites/apps including Ed Shed that can be accessed at home for regular practice.

There may be times that class teachers will send home additional learning, maybe research or a practice task.

We know that some parents would like their children to do further homework. Parents are very welcome to do this but it will not be marked by the class teacher. Parents may opt to buy readily available revision guides such as those by CGP or Letts and parents can access online lessons such as those provided by [The Oak National Academy](#) to supplement and consolidate learning in school.