

What is the purpose of homework?

The vast majority of responses to the homework questionnaire showed that we agree on the benefits that homework can bring to pupils, parents, carers and staff. We saw that:

- Homework helps to strengthen and extend skills, particularly in English and Mathematics.
- It provides opportunities for you to work with your child.
- It helps you to gain an understanding of what your child is learning about in school.
- Homework helps children to progress towards becoming more independent learners.

Why must my child learn number facts and spellings at home? Shouldn't that be left to the school?

Number facts and spellings are taught first in school. The school does not expect parents and carers to be the first point of this teaching, though many parents readily help their children with them. These skills are taught a number of times throughout the week: during lessons, whilst playing games and even when lining up! Learning them at home is merely an opportunity to commit them to the children's memories.

What will happen if my child doesn't do their homework?

There was a resounding response to this element of our homework questionnaire. All parents wanted to be told each time their child did not complete their homework. There is often a perfectly valid reason for not having done their homework. On a few, rare occasions, there doesn't appear to be a reason at all! We have designed a sticker to put into their homework diaries upon the first and second time a homework task is not completed. On the third such occasion, parents will be contacted directly and the child will be expected to complete the work at lunch or break time if appropriate.

Milldene Primary School

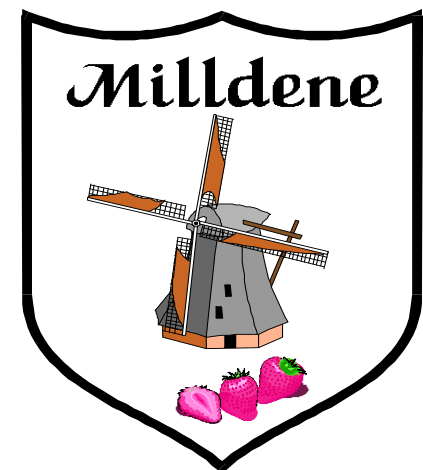
65 Barbrook Lane
Tiptree
Essex
CO5 0EF
Phone: 01621 816490
Email: admin@milldene.essex.sch.uk

Milldene Primary School

Homework Guide

An updated guide in response to the homework questionnaire and government guidelines.

Living and Learning Together



Reception Class Homework (Ruby Class)

Timing: Approximately 15 minutes per day (including reading)

Reading: Adults reading to children. Sharing a book at bedtime is a magical experience. It is a subtle way of helping your child understand how stories work. Children reading to an adult. Discussing the story and the characters and asking questions about the book will help with your child's understanding of language. Please leave a comment in your child's reading diary to help us know that you have read with him or her.

Year One (Sapphire) and Year Two (Topaz)

Timing: 10 minutes reading daily (minimum), 5 minutes spelling/phonics daily and 15 minutes per week completing their online MyMaths task.

Reading: Year One children will have two books to bring home: a 'skills' or 'phonics' book that is linked to their current learning and a 'challenge' book that will push their learning further and will contain words that are harder to decode. It is important to remind your child to use different strategies to read new words i.e, using their phonics knowledge to sound words out, looking at the pictures, looking for words within words and reading the rest of the sentence are ways in which your child can read an unknown word. Just as important is discussing the book to check that your child has understood what they have read.

Phonics (Spelling): Children will have daily phonics lessons throughout Key Stage 1. Children will bring home some words or sounds each week for them to read, write and learn. Year Two have a set of 'Common Exception Words' that they will need to learn and spell.

Maths: All children will have access to the MyMaths website. This is updated regularly and we are able to check on the children's progress via the site. Year Two will have access to Times Table Rockstars from the spring term onwards. They will start the 'Multiplication Marathon' during the summer term.

Key Stage Two: Years Three to Six

Timing: 15 minutes reading daily, 30 minutes maximum on English and maths (MyMaths and TTRockstars sites). Suggestion of 5 minutes on spelling, 3x per week. Suggestion of 5 minutes tables/number facts, 3x per week.

Reading: Older children need a clear understanding of the text, often needing to 'read between the lines' regarding characters. It is often thought older children do not benefit from reading to an adult; this is not the case! Parents should continue to complete their child's reading record to show that they have read to an adult or had a discussion about the book.

Many children will have two books, marked by two different bookmarks: a 'skills' book that matches their current reading ability and a 'pleasure' book that they have chosen. We wanted to recognise that though some children may need more time to be able to read fluently, they are not without ambition or a desire to delve into the broad range of books we have to offer.

Spelling: A list of spellings to learn or an investigation will be set weekly. It is important to emphasise that spellings need to be applied to other homework and class work. All year groups have a set of 'Statutory Spelling Words' that are broken down into half term chunks. Please make sure the children are learning to read and spell these too.

Tables and other number facts: All children will have access to the MyMaths website. This is updated regularly and we are able to check on the children's progress via the site. We will continue to work towards recalling all times tables and we use our multi-level 'Multiplication Marathon' to help us with this. Using Times Table Rockstars will help your child achieve this goal.

English and Mathematics: This will usually be based around what the children will be learning in class.

Half termly projects: Each half term, the children will be given a project to do, usually related to the class topic. This homework is open ended and allows children to work more creatively. They have the whole half term to create their response, rather than a specific deadline.

Other Areas of the Curriculum:

Short, simple tasks may also be set in other areas, such as finding resources or interviewing someone.