



Northbourne CE Primary School

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Homework Policy: Owls, Falcons and Hawks (Y3 and 4)

Aims of homework

At Northbourne, we believe that homework should:

- Help children extend and build on the learning taking place in the classroom
- Help parents and family members play a full and active role in their child's education

How can I help my child with their homework?

- We know that things at home are busy! Wherever you can, ensure that your child has time and quiet space to complete their homework, learn the facts sent home, and to read in amongst this schedule of weekly activities.
- A 'little-and-often' approach is the best one to take to learning number facts and spellings – a few minutes each day is better than trying to learn them in half an hour once a week.
- If possible, tackle homework as soon as possible. This will allow time to get in touch with your child's class teacher if there are any problems, especially during this time when quick face-to-face meetings and discussions in passing are slightly harder to facilitate.
- Talk to your child about the methods they have been learning in class—especially in maths – as they will need to use these for their work on Sum Dog. We know that the way maths is taught is different to how many of us were taught, but your child will not be asked to complete any work they have not been practising in school. If, after discussion, your child still struggles with this, get in touch with your child's teacher who will be happy to help.
- Keep us informed about any problems with homework—whether these are related to the activity or the timescale, we are happy to provide advice or allow extra time for work to be completed when asked in advance.
- Similarly, let teachers know about any successes to allow these to be shared and celebrated in class.

Homework your child will be set

Maths Homework <i>(Up to 30mins a week)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pupils will be set Maths homework each week. Maths homework will be set on Tuesday and need to be completed by the following Tuesday. Usually this will be through the Maths website Sum Dog, where specific, personalised games and activities will be set for pupils to practise and consolidate classroom learning. Your child's username and password for this website can be found at the front of their reading diary. Sum Dog frequently runs a diagnostic assessment which identifies the pitch of the work your child is ready for. Please ensure you do not help your child with the assessments as this could mean the work set will then be too stretching for them. Please remind your child that like in class, manipulatives (such as counters) and jottings are useful scaffolds to their maths learning, just as we would encourage in class.• Pupils will know the methods they should use to solve the problems included in their activity from their work in class. If there are any problems, however, please bring these to the attention of your child's maths teacher with a note in their reading diary or email (to lowerkeystagetwo@northbourne.oxon.sch.uk).• Your child should complete the activities using paper and jottings to help them – they do not have to calculate answers without writing down any information.
Spelling: <i>(5 mins a day)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Spellings to learn throughout the week will be provided each Friday to be tested the following Friday. The spelling rule will be taught in class, which will be supported by additional practise on the Spelling Frame website where they will complete their weekly spelling test in school and their score will be saved. Children will not require a spelling book as the website provides practise opportunities and records all the test results.• Your child has a username and password stuck in the front of their reading diary; in order to access the full content your child must be logged in with these details. We will recap on previously learnt spellings from Year 2, to ensure these are remembered correctly, as well as introducing new content from Years 3 and 4 as appropriate. The list of focus spellings to be learnt will be stuck into your child's reading diary; the title will indicate which year group the spelling activities should be accessed from and the number of the spelling rule to be learnt that week. Once the rule is selected your child can access a range of activities to help them secure the spelling to be learnt.• In addition to practising through the activities and games, your child can complete practise tests for this spelling rule online (select practise/test then the test tab). We will do a final test online Friday in school. You will be able to view your child's final score by logging in at home.• The programme is very intuitive and will save a list of words your child found most challenging to secure and will provide additional activities for those specific 'tricky words'. It will also add any unknown spelling words, such as those a child gets incorrect during the tests, to help your child recall tricky spellings over time. It is worthwhile allowing a session a week to select your child's tricky word list to practise to help them secure the spellings they are less confident with over time.• We will be using this website in class regularly to help your child gain confidence in using this at home as part of their spelling homework. Please encourage your child to log on regularly throughout the week, to help them secure this important vocabulary and the spelling of these words. If your child does not have internet access, please speak to your child's class teacher.
Reading <i>(10mins a day)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Children need to either read to an adult, or be read to by an adult, for 10 minutes or so 5 times a week. This could be a book from the classroom, the library or from home.• Reading Records will be used to monitor this reading, so please either fill this in yourself or prompt your child to do so neatly every time they read.• Children need to ensure that their reading diary is in school every day.

Times Tables and Number Facts

(5mins a day)

- Pupils should know all of their multiplication **by the end of Y4** (up to 12 x 12) therefore support with securing these facts throughout Years 3 and 4 is essential.
- Throughout each week, pupils are taught strategies to help them learn specific times tables. They will complete times table tests based on their multiplication facts; these are then marked and sent home with children. Please encourage them to share these with you; please praise them for their progress with these and focus on supporting the learning of any incorrect answers.
- We use the website Times Table Rock Stars (www.ttrockstars.com/login) to support pupils' knowledge of their multiplication facts as knowing these facts is vital for good progress in maths. The login details for this can be found at the front of their reading diary. Please be aware that your child will be asked the same questions repeatedly, in order to develop automaticity in recalling these facts. As your child gains speed and accuracy, they will automatically progress onto new questions. Pupils will be assigned specific times table games through the Times Table Rockstars website to practise and consolidate their classroom learning.
- Pupils in Year 4 complete the Government Multiplication Check assessment in June; this is a formal assessment of their multiplication knowledge, assessing rapid accuracy of their multiplication facts. This is completed in school on a Chrome Book in test conditions, and includes 25 seconds covering all table facts to 12x12; pupils have six seconds to answer each question and three seconds between questions. Frequent use of Times Table Rock Stars is excellent preparation for this, particularly in the 'Soundcheck' mode as this is almost identical to the Multiplication test. Another resource useful for practise is: <https://mathsframe.co.uk/en/resources/resource/477/Multiplication-Tables-Check>.
- Some children find the timed element very challenging initially; to build confidence a good starting point is to use the website <https://www.themathsfactor.com/times-tables-check/#/levels> in beginner mode on which allows you to begin with 10 seconds for each question, before introducing shorter time intervals.
- As with spelling, a 'little-and-often' approach to learning these facts is the best one to take – 5 mins a day, focusing on specific, trickier facts, is ideal.

During the year, some activities may be set for pupils to complete in their Google Classroom. Further details will be sent home when these activities are set.

What feedback will I receive?

- Teachers will keep records of spelling and times table results, and results from Sum Dog activities. Where pupils seem to be struggling with any of this learning, teachers will get in touch to discuss this with you. They will also aim to let you know when these facts are learnt well, either through a discussion or with certificates, stickers or other rewards.
- It is helpful to teachers to have a short comment when a child has struggled with homework, including with learning any facts sent home, or found anything especially easy. Please drop a brief email or note to your child's teacher if they have any problems with any homework; you are welcome to use your child's reading diary for this, or can use the lowerkeystagetwo@northbourne.oxon.sch.uk email address.
- It is helpful to have comments from home about aspects of reading which are going well or proving a struggle; please use the home-school reading diary to record these. These are checked daily, so please record any reading which your child does.

Please remember, your child's class teacher is always happy to answer any questions you may have or provide any help which you need.