

Homework @ RJ Mitchell

At RJ Mitchell, we believe that Homework has an important part to play in a child's learning. However, we also believe that any Homework given has to have a clear purpose and not just act as a time filler. To this end, we have come up with a list of core homework expectations, as well as a rationale for each element.

Core Homework

Homework	Content	Rationale	Frequency
Reading	School reading book Any appropriate reading material, in paper form or on screen.	Reading is at the basis of everything we do. We work hard in school to foster a love of reading and books. Without reading, we cannot access the world in a meaningful way. In Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1, children will learn to decode and read using Phonics, as well as having chances to practice individual reading. They will also learn to comprehend. It is absolutely vital that this is backed up at home.	Daily.
Maths Basics (Tables, four rules, mental calculation)	Times Tables (Available in school diary) MyMaths.co.uk	These basic skills underpin Mathematical understanding. We need children to be fluent and quick in all tables up to 12 x 12.	Practice and learn for weekly tables/mental tests.
Spellings	Spelling lists Children will receive a new list each week.	Acquiring skills in spelling is crucial in the development of Literacy. Spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPaG) forms a major part of our teaching.	Practice and learn for weekly spelling tests. Each child will also get time to use each word in context in class.

Additional Homework

Topic	Focused research Projects Imaginative tasks	We place huge importance on Independent learning. For Topic work, we gather children's prior knowledge on a subject before a topic starts. We also ask children to see what they can find out about a subject prior to	Two or three times during a topic
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		beginning a new topic, in order to stimulate their interest and gather lots of information for the class quickly. With regular practice and through learning from each other, children develop many skills through doing this. We don't expect children to find out everything about a topic, so for example if the children were beginning a topic on The Great Fire of London (Y2) they could research where the fire began, how it spread or how we know about it, amongst other things. Sometimes, we ask children to come up with an idea for Topic homework, so using The Great Fire of London again, the children could make a model, produce a piece of art, create a timeline of events or even write a poem. The only limit is their imagination. For this type of homework, the children would normally have more than a week to complete it, depending on the task.	
French	Fortnightly	French homework takes the form of a fortnightly worksheet to reinforce learning.	
Online Activities	Weekly/Ongoing	www.mymaths.co.uk (Each child has their own individual logon for this. Individual teachers will distribute logons and set homework when appropriate.) www.easimaths.com (Again, children need their own individual logon. Children can use this as often as they want to at home, as well as at school.) www.mathszone.co.uk (This website contains links to lots of really good maths games and activities.)	

In addition to the above, particular classes may give out additional homework to reinforce learning. This homework may take the form of a worksheet or activity.

Foundation Stage

In Foundation Stage, children are expected to read daily. They will also have words to take home to learn when they are ready. The Foundation Stage leader will communicate directly to parents on this.