

Agreed Approach to Homework 2018

EYFS

Homework	Action	Regularity
Reading	Read and record in reading diary.	10 mins a day minimum
Word Tin	Practise the key words in their own time	

KS1 Homework

Homework	Action	Regularity
Reading	Read and record in reading diary.	15 mins a day minimum
Knowledge	Practise learning the facts on your knowledge organiser.	10 mins twice a week
Maths with parents	Watch the video together and complete the activities.	New video every 2-3 weeks
Spellings	Practise the spellings that are sent home each week.	3 times a week minimum

KS2 Homework

Homework	Action	Regularity
Reading	Read and record in reading diary.	15 mins a day minimum
Knowledge	Practise learning the facts on your knowledge organiser.	10 mins twice a week
Times tables	Log onto and practise on Times Table Rock Stars.	15 mins three times a week minimum
Spellings	Children will bring home a list of 10 spellings to practise ready for a test in the academy.	5 mins a day

Oasis Academy Warndon Loves to Read



Home Reading

Across our academy, the expectation is that children will read for a minimum of 5 times a week for a minimum of 10 minutes. Each child has their own reading record, which must be signed by an adult; in key stage 2, children must also complete the daily task in their reading record. Children who do not have their reading record completed by an adult at home, will read to an adult in the academy the following day.

Choice

In EYFS and key stage 1, each classroom is fully stocked with Collins Big Cat books providing children with a wide variety of literature and nonfiction texts. In key stage 2, book corners are stocked with a wide range of age appropriate high quality texts; focus authors are introduced to support children's independence and enjoyment of reading.

Incentives

A daily class record is kept of regular readers and a weekly class percentage of regular readers sent to the English Leader. The class across EYFS and each phase with the best percentage each week will be rewarded with 20 minutes of golden time on a Friday afternoon. Each half term, every regular reader is placed into a prize draw to win a book of their choice which then enters the library with their name in the front. At the end of the academic year any child who has read regularly for every academic week will be entered into a prize draw to win a bike.

Parents/Carers and The Home Environment

Through our Oasis Academy Warndon Loves To Read reading records, we support and encourage parental engagement in home reading. The reading records are personalised to individual children's reading levels and encourage discussion between child and adult in a selection of books. Suggested questions are also included to support children's comprehension of the book they are reading. When books are forgotten a whoops slip is sent home to remind parents to send books in the following day.

Knowledge Organiser Key Fact Practice

'Knowledge Organisers' will be sent home each half term. Below is a series of tips and information to help your child learn the key content, vocabulary, spellings which are contained in the Knowledge Organiser

What are knowledge organisers?

A knowledge organiser is a set of key facts or information that pupils need to know and be able to recall in order to master a unit or topic. Typically, an organiser fits onto one page of A4 or A3 – this helps pupils to remember the layout of the page, which helps them to memorise the information better. The secret to success is to regularly visit the knowledge to be learned (known as 'spaced retrieval'). This helps transfer the knowledge from the short-term memory to the long term memory. This not only helps to make 'learning stick' but it also frees up our short-term memory for day to day learning and experiences.

How will a knowledge organiser help my child?

Knowledge organisers will be made available at the start of each half term for our curriculum theme to help children remember what they are learning and see the bigger learning journey in their subjects. Instead of forgetting previous learning, pupils continually revisit and retrieve prior learning from their memories.

How will a knowledge organiser help me to help my child?

Many of you ask us how you can help to support your children at home. Some of you are worried that you don't have all of the subject specific knowledge to be able to help your children. Some of you worry how to check that your children have done their homework and revision. The knowledge organisers will help you to do this easily.

The image shows a collage of several knowledge organiser pages. The main page is titled 'MEET THE FLINTSTONES' and contains information about the Stone Age, key words and definitions (Flicking, BC, Hunter-Gatherer, Nomad), and interesting facts. Other pages include 'DISASTERS' with a volcano diagram, 'POMPEII', 'MAYANS' with a Mayan deity illustration, and 'KEY DATES' with a timeline. The pages are colorful and contain various diagrams, illustrations, and text boxes.

Suggested activities for parents

Top tips

- Make your practice sessions active-don't just read it. Try **flash cards, mind maps or use post it notes to cover sections and try and remember them**
- Watching videos online can really help to bring your facts alive!
- Test yourself by asking your parents or asking a friend to test you! This will show you what you know and what you still need to learn.

Here are some strategies that might help you to do this:

Strategy	Description	Image
Read it	Read through the organiser with your child – if you don't understand the content then ask them to explain it to you – 'teaching' you helps them to reinforce their learning.	
Change it	Try changing the information into a mind map or make your own version using clip art imagery if the organiser contains a lot of text. Display on the wall or the fridge door until the memory 'sticks'.	
Test it- Spelling	Test them regularly on the spellings of key words until they are perfect. Make a note of the ones they get wrong – is there a pattern to the spelling of those words or a song you can make up to help?	
Test it- Facts	Read sections out to them, missing out key words or phrases that they have to fill in. Miss out more and more until they are word perfect.	
Record it	Try recording the knowledge from the organiser as an mp3 sound file (most phones have this as a free app) your child can listen to and speak along with.	
Research it	Once they can remember all of the knowledge on the organiser, use the internet or a book to find out more.	
Glossary	Make a glossary (list) of key words with definitions or a list of formulae.	



How it Works



Children are taught a maths topic at school. Teachers send out the related Maths with Parents resources



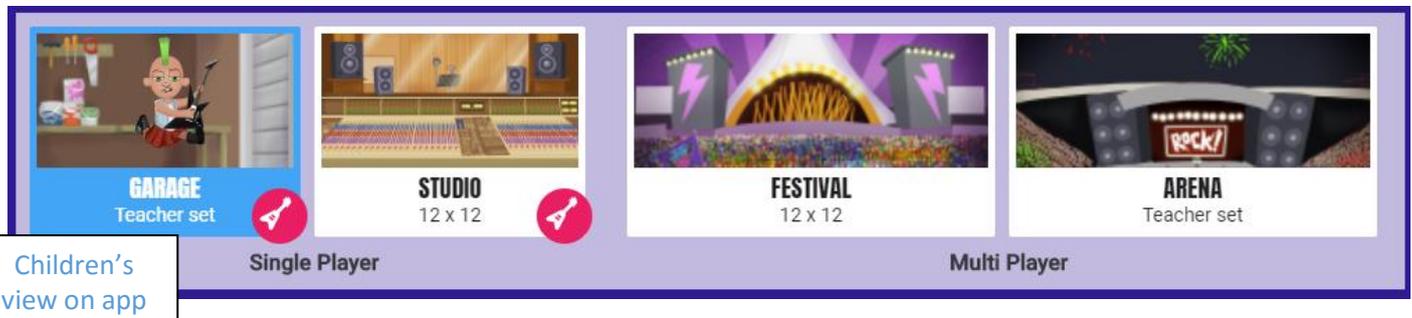
Parents receive a short video explaining the method their child is currently learning



Parents and children play fun maths activities together, which bring maths to life

The programme involves:

- Worksheets during the school week
- The availability to practise using an app both in school and at home
- A parent handbook containing suggestions for how to practise times tables at home with your children. Please be aware that the times table schedule, in the parent handbook, may differ to your child's schedule depending on what the children currently need to practice from our assessments.



At home

- Children should be encouraged/incentivised to practise at home in the app.
- In the app, they can collect coins from practising times tables, which can then be spent customising their avatar.

When online, children can play in 4 areas:

- Garage, which limits them to specific times tables that their teacher has set.
- Studio (which sets their rock speed (seconds per question) on any times table up to 12x12.
- Festival, where they can play against any other child nationwide on any times table up to 12x12.
- Arena, where they can play against any child in their class providing they are in the same differentiated group their teacher has selected.

Practice Plan

Each session, the suggested plan is:

1. Read the times tables out loud (3 minutes) – On the next page you will find all the times tables written out from the 3s up to the 12s. Together with your child, read the times tables that we are focusing on that week. For example, if it's week 3 of the Autumn half-term then concentrate on the 5 times table. Do it a second time round but this time your child should be trying to say them without reading them from the page. It is more important that they say them correctly than say them quickly at this stage.
2. Scatter tables (up to 5 minutes) – you will find Scatter Tables at the end of this document. To use them, you call out a question from the times table you are focusing on and your child should point to the answer on the page. For example, if you are concentrating on the 5 times table, then find the Scatter Table for the 5s and call out questions like, "9 times 5" (your child points to 45), "6 times 5" (your child points to 30) or "5 times 12" (your child points to 60). Your child should be trying to get them correct each time and not worrying about the speed.
3. Write tables on a piece of paper (up to 5 minutes) – Your child should write down the times tables being focused on that week. Any piece of paper will do.
4. Play online (up to 10 minutes) – Your child needs to have a login for ttrackstars.com from their teacher. Then they should play for a short while until they are successfully answering the questions quickly. Let your child's teacher know if you have difficulty accessing the internet or difficulty getting on to ttrackstars.com. You can also use the contact details on the website to ask for assistance.

Spellings

Spelling at school - What to expect each year:

Age 5-7	Age 7-9	Age 9-11
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Your child will be expected to use phonic skills, as well as what they know about word structures more generally, when reading and spelling unfamiliar, common and tricky words. Your child will also now be able to recognise by sight, read and spell many of the common and tricky words.The Academy will send home weekly spellings to be learned.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Children will still need to use their phonic skills to tackle new or unknown words but they will also be learning about spelling patterns and rules, too, so that they have a wider range of tools to use when they get stuck.The Academy will send home weekly spellings to be learned.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Your child should be able to read and spell unfamiliar and common words using what they know about phonics and how words are structured.The Academy will send home weekly spellings to be learned.

If you are looking for some fun spelling ideas, then look no further ... these games will help your child to learn those spelling words and enjoy it in the process.

1. Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check

With this method, your child will start with a list of spellings written down on paper. They then go through the following steps:

- Look at the word carefully. Pay attention not just to the letters and their order, but also to the shape the word makes on the page
- Say it aloud. Say the letters in the word, say the entire word, and then again saying any silent letters, out loud e.g. Wed – nes – day.
- Cover the word with a piece of paper or your hand
- Write the word down from memory.
- Check your answer letter by letter. If you do not have it right, try again.

2. Mnemonics

Some words do not follow a spelling rule. For 'tricky' words, a mnemonic is a useful memory aid that helps you remember your new spelling. You could try making up a sentence where each word starts with the letters in the word to be learnt, for example: Big elephants can always understand small elephants = 'because'

However, mnemonics can take many forms: a visual learner, for instance, might draw a picture that helps them remember how to spell the word.

3. Spelling Sentences

This method involves practising spellings by writing sentences that include the words that have to be learnt. For example, if your child is given the word 'highlight' to learn, they might write:

'Going to the party was the highlight of my weekend.'

The benefit of writing sentences is that it doesn't just help children learn how to spell the word, but it also reinforces the meaning and how to use it in context.

4. Dictation Sentences

This is similar to spelling sentences, but instead of children writing their own sentences, read out a sentence that includes the spelling word. Your child has to write down either the word itself, or the whole sentence, for example:

‘A shape with four sides is called a quadrilateral. Spell 'quadrilateral'.’

This is the method used to test spelling knowledge in both the KS1 and KS2 SATs.

5. Spotting patterns

Often, children will be given a list of words that are connected by a certain rule, such as ‘I before E except after C.’ Making sure your child knows the rule can take a lot of the effort out of learning what might look like difficult spellings, as the pattern can be applied to most or all of the words. It is, however, important that they know any exceptions to the rule to avoid slipping up.

6. Listen and spell

This may seem like an old-fashioned way of learning spellings, where the word is simply read aloud and your child has to write it down. But while it may not be the most revolutionary or exciting technique, it works well for children who are auditory learners.

There are two different ways to do this:

- Saying the whole word aloud and getting your child to write it down.
- Spelling the word out letter by letter, with your child writing each letter as you say it.

You can make the task more engaging by letting your child record themselves saying the words aloud using your phone or tablet; they can then play the recording back and write the word down.

7. Tracing

Here, your child copies out the words that they need to learn using their best cursive handwriting. They then place a sheet of tracing paper over the top and trace the words they’ve written. This helps your child build a muscle memory of the word, and can be a useful tactic for kinaesthetic learners who learn best when they’re doing something physical.

You could also try water painting. Go outside with a paintbrush and water and write the spellings on walls or on the ground.

8. Beat the clock

If your child is the competitive type, getting them to practise their spellings against the clock might appeal. This is as simple as it sounds: you read out the word and get your child to either write it down or spell it out aloud, and see if they can do it a bit faster each day.

9. Word puzzles

These take a bit more preparation, but word puzzles such as crosswords, wordsearches, anagrams and Hangman are great ways to make spelling that little bit more fun. These encourage children to think carefully about the order of letters in a word. You can find lots of wordsearch and crossword makers like Puzzle-Maker online.

Here are some great games and ideas to help with spellings online:

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/advice-for-parents/help-with-spelling/>