



3rd October 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

Homework requirements

Teachers have shared their expectations and homework requirements at the recent 'meet the teacher' meetings. At St Alban's we regard homework as an extremely important part of children's learning; it helps to ensure your child makes the best possible progress and we greatly value the contribution to learning that you, as parents and carers, make in supporting homework. The work ethic and self-discipline that homework promotes is just as valuable as the content.

Parents of secondary school aged children often tell us that the ethic of homework established at St Alban's aids a smooth transition to Year 7. The steady progression and expectation for homework begins from the early years and builds over KS1 and KS2.

Reading regularly and sharing books is of paramount importance and lays the foundations for learning across the whole curriculum and, for this reason, reading regularly is an essential element of homework that all children are expected to complete. We hope that you will be able to support us in developing in children a love of reading through sharing books at home.

It is expected that homework is completed by all children and, where written work is set, completed to the highest possible standard. Children in Key Stage 2 who fall short of this will be asked to complete or re-do homework during breaktimes, lunchtimes or, in persistent cases, after school, in order that all children can keep pace with their peers and the demands of the national curriculum. There may also be times when teachers identify that a child has a specific 'gap' in their learning and may set some additional learning to help him/her catch up in this area.

If any children have any concerns or queries about homework set, it is expected that they will talk to their classteacher as early as possible in order to be able to complete homework in the timescales set.

Yours sincerely

Mrs N Hordell
Headteacher

Weekly Homework Requirements

- There may be times when additional tasks or activities are set that contribute to a topic or lesson. Teachers may also at times set optional extra challenges or tasks which children may like to do.
- Children who need extra practice to fill specific gaps in their learning may receive additional individualised homework tasks in these areas.
- Please ensure that Reading Diaries (homework books in Year 5 and 6) are sent in to school every day.
- Presentation in homework books should follow school expectations: written neatly in pencil or, in KS2, written in blue pen if a pen license has been achieved (berol type pen not biro).

In line with our feedback policy, please note that 'marking' of homework will take a variety of forms depending on the task set, with verbal feedback the most common. For example, work is most likely to be shared and discussed as a class or group without a written comment from staff, sometimes work may be initialled and/or ticked, occasionally a comment may be added and at other times staff will check that tasks have been completed by checking DoodleMaths and Reading diaries or holding spelling tests in class.

EYFS and KEY STAGE 1

Reception

- Reading at least 5 times a week, recorded in Reading Diary (10 minutes)
- Learning sight vocabulary/spellings/letters - includes Read-a-saur-us Rex scheme (5 minutes 5 x week)
- From the Spring term onwards additional maths based tasks will be sent home

Year 1

- Reading at least 5 times a week, recorded in Reading Diary (10 -15 minutes)
- Learning sight vocabulary/spellings/letters - includes Read-a-saur-us Rex scheme (5 – 10 minutes 5 x week)
- Diamond Dash times table/number bond practice (includes DoodleMaths) (5 – 10 minutes 5 x week)

Year 2

- Reading at least 5 times a week, recorded in Reading Diary (15 -20 minutes)
- Learning sight vocabulary/spellings - includes Read-a-saur-us Rex scheme (5 – 10 minutes 5 x week)
- Diamond Dash times table/number bond practice (includes DoodleMaths) (5 – 10 minutes 5 x week)

KEY STAGE 2

Year 3 and Year 4

- Reading at least 5 times a week, recorded in Reading Diary (20 minutes)
- Complete '7 a day' on DoodleMaths (5 x week) recorded in homework book (needs to be completed 'live' in order to be registered as completed)
- Spelling list practice in homework book using the suggested learning tasks (tested on Fridays - new lists sent home when children have passed this test)
- One additional task may be included in homework books (to be checked on Fridays)

Year 5 and Year 6

- Reading at least 5 times a week, recorded in the reading grid in their homework book (20 – 30 minutes)
- Complete '7 a day' on DoodleMaths (5 x week) recorded in homework book (needs to be completed 'live' in order to be registered as completed)
- Spelling list practice in homework book using the suggested learning tasks (tested on Fridays - new lists sent home when children have passed this test)
- One additional task will be included in homework books (to be checked on Fridays)

