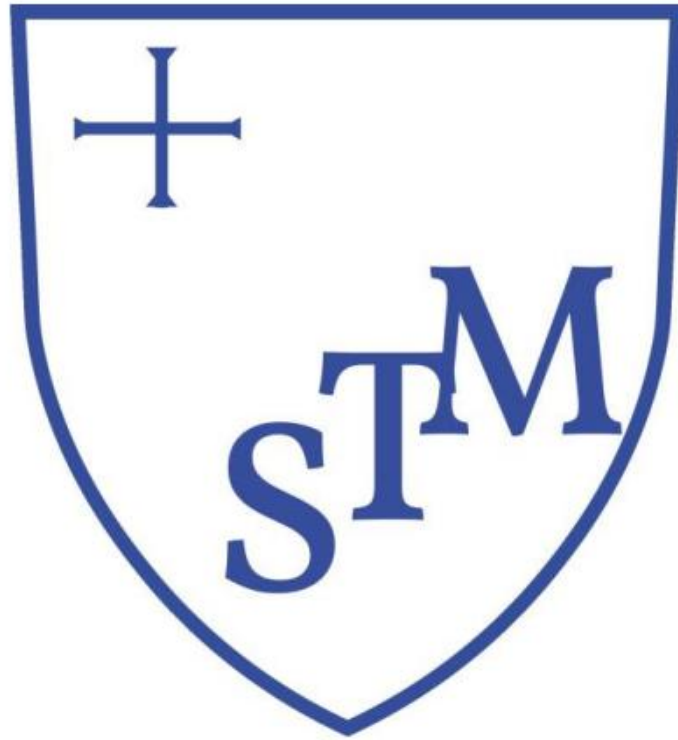


St Martin's C of E Primary School



Homework Strategy

September 2026

Introduction

We believe that our wonderful children work incredibly hard when they're at school. We don't believe that doing an enormous amount of homework is in their best interests. In fact, we'd love it if the majority of their free time was spent doing lovely things or visiting interesting places with their family & friends, perhaps even attempting the National Trust '50 things to do before you're 11½'! <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/features/50-things-to-do-before-youre-11-activity-list>.

However, in order for our children to thrive academically we would be delighted if you can support them with the following home-learning tasks:

1. Reading for all

There is so much enjoyment to be had from reading to and with your child and we believe passionately that reading as frequently as possible has enormous benefits to children's future happiness and success. It's also such a lovely thing to do together, as parent and child. Why not try a book from one of our lists of recommended reads for each year group. These can be found in the homework section on the website.

Reading in Reception and Key Stage 1

Learning to read is a complex skill which involves not only decoding the words but understanding the vocabulary, being able to read with expression and fluency and being able to talk confidently about the book.

At St Martin's we would like all children to flourish and develop a love for reading. We choose your child's home reading book very carefully, ensuring that all books are phonetically decodable within the phonics phase that your child is working at.

Pupils are individually assessed on their phonics knowledge each half term, based on this each child is given a book that is accessible for them at their level, so that the child can read it and enjoy it. Research suggests that children should be able to fluently read 90% of the book independently. At school, children will benefit from a regular guided reading and a daily phonics lesson. At home, we would like your child to read the book over and over again, allowing them to increase in confidence and therefore increasing the level of enjoyment.

We then expect the pupils to have some understanding of what they have read and be confident to answer questions about the text. Our aim is that children read their reading book at least 3 times a week. In addition to their reading book your child will bring home a reading for pleasure book that you can enjoy together.

Reading in Key Stage 2

Most children are able to read fluently and with good understanding, having completed the Little Wandle Phonics programme. Children will be guided to the best book choices for them by a colour coding system. This happens for most children by the end of Year 2 but some children may remain on the Phonics programme as they enter Key Stage 2. For as long as

your child is on the Little Wandle programme they will bring home a book that matches their phonic ability and enables them to read fluently. Research shows that children who can fluently read at a speed of 90 words per minute by the end of the autumn term of year 3, have much more chance of being successful readers.

It is very important to us that all our Key Stage 2 children continue to develop a passion for reading for pleasure. In school we will read a wide range of quality texts to them and with them. Each class will visit the library regularly and classroom book areas will provide tantalizing choices of well displayed books.

We ask that you, as parents and carers, continue to read with your child, especially in year 3 to increase their fluency and confidence. However, as children reach the upper years and are fluent readers, we understand that they may wish to read to themselves for pleasure, rather than aloud to an adult. As with Key Stage 1, our aim is that your child read at home at least 3 times a week.

2. Spelling

Spellings are taught through a structured and consistent approach that helps children understand how words work. Lessons focus on teaching spelling patterns, rules, and common exception words in a clear and practical way. Children are encouraged to explore sounds, word meanings, and letter patterns so they can apply their learning confidently in their writing. Regular practise, discussion, and opportunities to revisit learning help pupils develop strong, transferable spelling skills over time. At home, we would like you to help us by practising spelling with your child.

In Reception and Year 1, we will send home Little Wandle Home Learning Sheets, which are designed to support children in practising spelling skills little and often at home. These words will complement the phonics being taught in school. Pupils will bring home a small set of focus words linked to the spelling patterns taught in class. Children are encouraged to practise these words through short, manageable activities such as saying the word, identifying the tricky part, and writing it correctly. Families can support learning by revisiting the words across the week, rather than trying to learn them all at once. This approach helps build confidence, accuracy, and long-term spelling knowledge.

From Year 2 upwards, we begin to teach children how to master different spelling conventions, using a variety of different strategies. Some spellings follow these conventions and patterns; whilst others are spelled in a non-conventional way and need to be learned. Spellings will be sent home for you to practice them with your child, we will check on their ability to spell words during lessons using a range of strategies.

3. Maths

Your child will bring home some **Key Instant Recall Facts (KIRFS)**, each half term. Mastering these facts will help them with their maths work in school. We ask that you make time to help your child learn these facts. They do not need to be written down, they can be made into games. The children will also practice these facts in the classroom on a regular basis.

Children in Key Stage 1 will have a Numbots login, this app helps the children to secure basic number facts and skills. In key stage 2, children will access TT Rockstars, which focusses on knowing the multiplication facts by heart, up to 12x12. Knowing these facts will benefit your children in all of their maths work, especially arithmetic.

Year Group Guidance

Nursery

- Share the library book with your child, which is changed each week. This can be lovely time to spend quality time with your child discussing a new book.
- Practice KIRFs (Key Instant Recall Facts)

Reception

- Read a Little Wandle phonic reading book 3 times per week.
- Read a sharing for pleasure with their family.
- Practice forming their letters correctly to support their writing using the Kinetic Letters method.
- Practice KIRFs (key Instant Recall Facts).
- Complete one piece of homework in their learning log each week. This will be to develop an area of learning within the foundation stage.

Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2)

- Practice phonics and spellings that are sent home.
- Choose and read a sharing book for pleasure, sharing this with a family member.
- Read a Little Wandle guided reading book at least 3 times a week.
- Practice KIRFs (key Instant Recall Facts).
- Use Numbots to practice number skills.

Key stage 2 (Year 3 – Year 6)

- Read at least three times a week, this will still be with an adult in year 3, or if fluency needs developing.
- Read a library book for pleasure.
- Practice spellings that are sent home, linked to class spelling rule or their personal target.
- Times tables to be practiced regularly using TT Rockstars.
- Practice KIRFs (key Instant Recall Facts)

In Year 6, we may set more homework and revision in the build up to SATs, this could be online using LBQ (Learning By Question). This additional work will steadily prepare children for their SATs and for when they transition to Year 7 at secondary school. Homework is a means of helping the children to revise for examinations, as well as to ensure that prior learning has been understood.

Pupils with Special Educational Needs

St Martin's, we carefully consider the needs of individual children and think about how they can best work with parents and carers to support their learning, this includes their personal and social development. We ensure that all tasks set are appropriate to the ability of the child and we endeavor to adapt any task set, so that all children can contribute.

When setting homework for pupils who are unable to access adapted tasks, we will link the focus to individual targets, to ensure this is effective, teachers will be supported by the SENDCo.

The Role of Parents

Parents have a vital role to play in their child's education and homework can be an important part of this process. We ask parents to encourage their child to complete the tasks that are set, whilst not making it a chore.

We invite them to help their child and provide them a supportive environment that allows children to do their best.

Parents can support their child by providing a relaxing work space at home, allowing their child to visit the library regularly and by discussing the work that their child is doing.

Additional Resources

If you wish to do additional tasks with your child, please see the homework section on our website and the RMP app, where we will post a range of activities that can be completed over each half term period.

Useful websites that the school recommends for parents to support their child at home are:

English websites:

Support with phonics- <https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/>

Free access to some e-books - <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/find-a-book/library-page/>

List of suitable books for your child's age- <https://www.thereaderteacher.com/>

Improving your child's English including writing and grammar-<https://uk.ixl.com/english>

Supporting your child's creative writing at home-<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/kids-activities/creative-writing/> or

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/253gFvShztizRprffwVvKq/bbc-bitesize-creative-writing-resources>

Our local library has lots of great resources

https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/info/200261/libraries/827/tipton_library

Maths websites:

<https://topmarks.co.uk>

<https://play.ttrockstars.com>

<https://playnumbots.com>

If parents have any questions or concerns about homework, they should firstly contact the child's class teacher.

Monitoring and Review

It is the responsibility of our governing body to agree and then monitor the school homework strategy. This is done by the curriculum committee of the governing body.