

How can we still complete homework but without the use of a screen?

Here are some ways of being able to engage with homework, without a screen.

Maths: Number Facts	English: Spelling/ Handwriting
✓ Children can count anything! Pennies, buttons, pasta, cars, Lego – encourage them to count things wherever they are! Give them mini tasks at the supermarket e.g. putting 6 carrots in a bag; 3 tins of beans, etc. ✓ Play board games. Being able to 'see' the number of dots rather than having to count them is an important skill called subitising. ✓ Chant number facts/times tables together whilst on a walk or on a car journey. ✓ Using a die, domino or a deck of cards, roll/turn one over – what do I add to it to make 10? Add the total of two or multiply to rehearse times tables. ✓ Rock, Paper, Scissor - Times Tables. Instead, each hold up several fingers across one or both hands – add or multiply. Whoever shouts out the correct answer first wins the round. ✓ Make up a funny rhyme for tricky facts. ✓ Beat the clock - Using scrap paper make 12 cards and number them 1-12. Shuffle and lay them in a line upside down. Choose a target times table to practise, e.g. x3. Turn over each card one at a time and multiply the number on the card by the target times table, e.g. if they pick the card 4, work out 4x3. How quickly can you answer?	✓ Ask your child to write the shopping list. ✓ Make up mnemonics for those trickier words e.g. because – big elephants can always understand small elephants. ✓ How many words can you think of that include the spelling rule/sound they are working on? ✓ Write a sentence which includes the spelling/sound your child is working on and ask them to copy it: this helps to reinforce focus on handwriting and applying spellings. ✓ Say a sentence which includes the spelling/sound your child is working on and ask them to write it down: this focuses on the child being able to hold a sentence and apply their spelling knowledge. ✓ Write the spellings on a bit of paper with a letter missing, write the missing letters on the opposite side of the paper but in a jumbled-up order. They have to find the correct missing letter and draw a line to connect the two. ✓ Rainbow Words - Write your spelling words three times using different colours. Each time you write a word it could be a different colour or each letter in the word could be different. spelling spelling spelling



Homework at
St Barnabas C of E
First and Middle School

Rationale:

At St Barnabas, we believe that homework is an opportunity for parents/carers to become active partners in supporting learning. Homework can help promote a positive attitude to learning at home and show children that home and school are working together in partnership.

We set homework in line with DfE guidelines. These guidelines haven't been updated in many years (2012) but give us an idea of how much homework to set for children. The advised time guidelines for children in primary schools:

Years 1 and 2: 1 hour per week

Years 3 and 4: 1.5 hours per week

Years 5, 6 and 7: 30 minutes per day

We recommend that parents use this as a guideline and our expectations will never exceed these recommendations. This time allocation should include children's self-reading for pleasure. It is important for children to have time with families and undertake other enrichment activities e.g. swimming, uniformed organisations, and still get enough rest and sleep.

What does research tell us?

Homework is any learning set by school that a child does at home. The Education Endowment Foundation research shows that children who complete homework at primary level could make 3 months' additional progress in a school year. This is especially seen in earlier years where children who read to an adult each evening make more progress than peers who do not. Homework **must be targeted** i.e. reading to improve fluency, decoding and comprehension, Times Tables to improve access to other areas of mathematical study e.g. fractions.

Our current Homework is the following:

Reading: Reading books are sent home for daily reading. Reception – Year 5 also have a Reading Record for parents/carers to report any reading they've done with their child. Children in Reception – Year 2 are encouraged to read 5 times a week and record this in their child's reading diary. Older children may record this themselves. Year 6 and 7 pupils have a weekly planner.

Book recommendations: [Our book recommendations | BookTrust](#)

Spelling: Each week, children will bring home a small set of spellings to practise. While all children are given access to the spelling list for their year group, they are **not expected to learn every word on the list**. In school, an adult will support each child in choosing an appropriate number of words to focus on each week, based on their individual needs and progress. Yearly spelling overviews are also available for parents on request. Spellings are regularly revisited and reinforced in school, including through our daily handwriting practice, so that children have plenty of opportunities to practise and apply them.

Phonics Year 1 – A Phonics pack is sent out with each child at the beginning of the year so they can practise at home. This pack contains recent sounds that they have learnt in their phonics lessons, a list of phonics games with crayons and a die for them to practise their phonics skills.

Mathematics: Children will use **Numbots (KS1)** or **Times Tables Rock Stars (KS2/3)** – an online maths programme - for short, regular practice of age-appropriate number facts and times tables at home. This will help develop **fluency, accuracy, confidence and automatic recall**, reducing cognitive load and enabling children to focus on more complex mathematical thinking. Children's progress and individual needs will be monitored so that practice can be targeted appropriately, and progress, effort and improvement can be recognised and celebrated.