

Other “homework”

Some parents enjoy completing additional tasks with their children at home and this is something we would encourage. However, although teachers are able to suggest particular tasks that could be completed, we cannot produce individualised home learning tasks for all children.

There are many other ways that you can support your child’s all round education:

Playing games, visiting places of interest, encouraging work on individual interests such as sport, music, etc., practising computer skills, talking about current affairs, etc.

All will help your child develop into a rounded individual.

Communicating between home and school

Our children will only achieve their potential when we all work together towards this goal. This means that with home learning it is important that you know about the work your child is receiving and can feedback to school about how they are doing with it.

In Reception we manage this with our “*Phoneme Pack*”, “*Reading Diary*” and “*High Frequency Word Book*”.

In Key Stage 1 we manage this with our “*Reading Diaries*” and a “*Home/School Spelling Book*”.

These books should help us to communicate efficiently. This means that you will be aware of any work coming home and help to ensure that this work has a positive impact on the progress your child is making.

Thank you for your support that you give your child in all the work they do. Such support ensures that we are all involved in striving to do the best for all our children.

CROMWELL ACADEMY

Home Learning Guidance for Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1

The children at Cromwell Academy are encouraged to work very hard at school and make the most of the time that they spend here. Whilst their school day ends at 3.15 pm, their education does not. Many children will have after school activities to attend that are important to their all round development. In addition to this, we strongly believe that pupils need some time at the end of the school day to relax and play – vital ingredients for good child development!

Therefore at Cromwell Academy we promote a home learning policy that seeks to strike a balance. This means a policy of regular meaningful activities that gives children the opportunity to have ownership of their learning and yet still allows for plenty of “free time” so necessary for other areas of good child development. We believe school home learning should enrich a child’s education and not be seen as some kind of chore or punishment.

We value your support in helping your child in their learning at home and we would ask that you help your child by encouraging him/her to work in a quiet area away from the TV and by monitoring the quality of the work they produce.

Home learning will vary depending on the age of your child and on activities taking place in school. This leaflet offers general guidelines.

Reception Class

Learning the sounds – During Phase 2 your child will begin to learn the sounds of the alphabet and these are called “phonemes”. They will be taught up to four phonemes each week in a specific order to enable them to word build as soon as possible. They will develop their skills in segmenting sounds in words (breaking the sounds down) and blending the sounds in words (pushing the sounds together to make a word). At the beginning of the school year, you will receive a “Phase 2 Phonics Pack” which will include phoneme flashcards, high frequency words and tricky words for your child to use at home.

High frequency words/tricky words – As well as phonemes, your child will also be learning “high frequency words” and “tricky words”. High frequency words are words that we often read in a book, such as “and”, “it” and “is”. Your child will practise reading these words by sight to help them develop fluency in their reading. There are 45 high frequency words in total, and they will be sent home as part of your child’s Phonics Pack. They will also be learning “tricky words”, which are words that cannot be decoded through sounding out – for e.g. “the” and “said”. Therefore, your child will be learning to read them by sight.

We will be setting a small number of sight words for your children to learn each week in their “High Frequency Word Book” which will be kept in their book bag. Please practise reading these words at home regularly with your child. They will be checked every Friday, and if your child is able to read them by sight, they will be set new ones to learn.

Reading – Reception children will bring home three reading books per week, which will be changed once a week. When your child is first starting to read, encourage them to turn the pages independently, hold the book by themselves, talk about the pictures and use their finger to follow the words. If your child finds a word difficult to read, model pointing to each sound and blending it together.

There will be a Reading Diary along with your child’s reading books. Inside your child’s reading diary, you will find a “bookmark” of questions to help you support your child when they are reading. When your child has read at home, please write a comment about how they got on in their Reading Diary. Please read with your child every day, as this will have a significant impact on their reading development.

Key Stage 1—Years 1 and 2

Reading – In Key Stage 1 the children will be bringing home 3 books from their own reading level each week. There will be a Reading Diary in their book bags and a Progress in Reading Document which gives examples of questions to ask our child within each book band. Please make a comment on how your child has got on with their reading. It is important that in these early stages of reading that the children have regular practise of 10-15 minutes whenever possible. The Reading Diaries are checked each week to enable us to respond to any comments and talk to the children about what they have read.

Spellings/Phonics – In Key Stage 1, each week, all children will be given a spelling pattern/ rule to investigate. This will usually fit in with work that is being taught in class. In the home/school spelling book there are examples of the strategies we use to teach spellings. The children should use these to practise their words each week. New words will be sent home on a separate piece of paper each week.

Purple Mash – All Key Stage 1 children have access to a computer based program called Purple Mash, with their own username and password. The children are able to access this from home, saving work in their own folder. Topics including, coding, writing frames, paint programs, animation and many different historical topics.

Maths

All Key Stage 1 children will be sent home with a maths learning pack at the beginning of the half term, this is for your child to complete during this time and will link to the objectives being covered in each year group.

Project Learning

Throughout the term a project-based home/learning activity will be sent home, these will link with topic work that your child is completing in class. Your child may be asked to complete some research and then present this to the class e.g. PowerPoint presentation, making a model, creating a game.

Many children also really enjoy trying to find out more about what they are studying at school. This might mean looking through reference books, a visit to the library or looking up information on the “web” for those children lucky enough to have access to the Internet. This is a great way of children beginning to develop all important research skills and can also give parents an insight into what your child is studying.