

Other “home learning”

Some parents enjoy completing additional tasks with their children at home and this is something we would encourage. Although teachers are able to suggest particular tasks that could be completed, we cannot produce individualised homework 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 this 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. All children will have a Cromwell Link Book/Planner; this will allow your child to keep a running tally of the books they have read and their accelerated reader quiz scores (when applicable). In addition, the book will be used as a means of communication between the home and school, please do use the book to share any information or queries you may have with the class teacher, these will be checked daily.

We are very grateful for the help, support and encouragement 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 Key Stage 2

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” which is so necessary for other areas of good child development. We believe 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 work 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 on the types of activities set, how they could be approached and how you can support your child at home.

Key Stage 2 - Years 3, 4, 5 and 6

Reading – We would like the children to continue reading at home as much as possible - at least 10 minutes a day. Many younger children will still enjoy reading aloud and being read to. Many older children will simply like to “lose themselves” in a book. Encourage your child in all their reading, whatever the reading matter – fiction, non-fiction, magazines, comics, newspapers etc. Discuss issues from their reading with them and encourage them to broaden their reading horizons. All children will have a Cromwell Link Book/Planner where their reading can be recorded— it could be a parent/carer who records this or the child themselves .

Spellings – Each Monday the children will be given a spelling pattern/ rule to investigate. This will usually fit in with work that is being taught in class. The following Monday in school, the children will take part in a dictation activity using words containing the spelling pattern/rule investigated during the previous week. The dictation activity will take place in the children’s Link Books. It really helps if spelling rules are put into context, and should children wish to learn how to spell specific words, ‘Look, Cover, Write, Check’ is a valuable method to use.

Homework - Home learning will take the form of a book of activities, one English and one Maths per week, these will be linked to the learning that is taking place in the classroom. The children will receive their home learning on a Friday and we will ask for it to be handed in on a Thursday to be marked and handed back to the children on a Friday.

Investigational work – Many children 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. Such investigational work is an excellent way to develop all important research skills and can also give parents an insight into what your child is studying. If your child does choose to investigate independently of school, please encourage them to let their teacher know.

Blogging—Each class has a secure blog on which they post work so that it can be celebrated by their peers, friends and family. Please encourage your children to access this at home and, where necessary, add work they have completed so that we can all celebrate this with them.

Year 6 extras!

In Year 6 home learning will be as above, but as the year progresses the amount will increase and become more formalised. This enables us to help the children revise work for their end of Key Stage 2 SATs in May in English and Maths and it also helps prepare them for the increased homework workload that Year 7 and secondary school will bring them.

