



# **Singleton Church of England Primary School**

## **Homework Information Booklet**



**Passion for learning ....Passion for life"**

### **Vision**

**"With God all things are possible" Matthew 19:26**

**"I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full" John 10:10**

**To provide the children with a variety of challenging and enriching opportunities, enabling them to live life to the full. Developing a growth mind-set, believing that with God everything is possible. To show, love , trust, wisdom and respect, becoming exemplary role models in our community and the wider world.**

## **Aspire for Excellence**

Homework is always a contentious issue.....

Some parents believe that children should have lots of homework and some believe that children should have none at all! Whilst others have all shades of opinion in between!

At Singleton we adopt what we believe is a very sensible approach, firmly rooted in supporting the children's learning in school and as they reach upper Key Stage 2 supporting the transition to high school.

**We want the very best lifetime opportunities for our children by giving them the best possible start and we believe this is achieved best through an effective working partnership with parents.**

Parents are asked to encourage their children to undertake and complete homework tasks in order to promote

- good attitude to work
- self-esteem and a sense of achievement
- improved standards of performance

We value the support you give to your children through discussion of their homework, and would especially ask you to ensure that your child has the time and environment in which to work undisturbed. We ask that you ensure that your child completes their homework each week. However, should there be an extenuating circumstance and your child have been unable to complete the homework on time, please send in a short note explaining the reason. Our Family Learning Mentor monitors the completion of homework and will contact parents if children persistently fail to complete their homework.

## **What type of homework will my child get? Year 1 to Year 6**

### **Reading**

Infant children **should** be **heard read** by someone at home every night for 5 – 10 minutes. In school the children are taught to read every day through phonics / guided reading. At home listening to your child read practices and reinforces what they have learnt at school. There is nothing more important that you can do at home than support your child's reading as this unlocks the whole curriculum for them. A child that cannot read cannot access for example history or geography. All children have reading records, written in by parents and staff and this is an effective source of communication between home and school.

As children progress through school and become independent readers, it is inappropriate for them to be reading out loud at home: we want them to become thoroughly engrossed in books. The role of the parent at this stage is to encourage, support and discuss what is being read. Children in the juniors should aim to read a minimum of 3 times a week. (Minimum of 15 – 20 minutes)

In our school we also use an online Reading Comprehension programme called 'Serial Mash' – children begin to use this from KS1 onwards.

### **Spelling**

In our school we use an online programme called IDL which is highly effective programme for improving reading and spelling. **All children** Yr 1 – Yr 6 have their own log in details and

can access this programme from home. The children all work at their own pace and level. We would encourage every child to spend 5 – 10 minutes per night on the IDL programme. (Minimum of 3 times a week is needed for the children to make any sustained progress). In addition to this we use Purple Mash spelling in KS2 and Red Rose Spelling in KS1.

### **Speaking and Listening**

The children will receive two home projects a year – which will involve preparing and presenting a talk for the rest of the class

### **Mathematics**

In the infant department it is important that the children learn their number bonds and their times tables. These can be done through songs, on car journeys, counting lampposts, through cooking, through shopping etc. As the children move into the juniors it is important that by year 4 they know all their times tables and these are just learnt through practice.

Apart from this, children will be given on line homework (My Maths / Rock Star – times tables) every week by their class teachers which extends or reinforces learning in class. My Maths has the option for parents and children to watch demonstrations of how to do the concept.

From Y2 the children will also be given weekly multiplications tests to complete on Purple MASH. This will support and prepare them for the DfE Multiplication Test in Year 4 and the KS1 and KS2 SATs

## **Generic whole school homework information**

### **IDL – Specialist Literacy programme**

Over the last few years we have invested a lot of money on specific on-line programmes to support our children with their learning. IDL was initially designed as a dyslexic support programme for developing reading comprehension skills and spelling and grammar. However, in more recent years it has been highly recommended to schools for use with all children. Evidence indicates that schools who use IDL have seen pupils' reading and spelling ages increase on average by around 10 months after just 26 hours of use.

IDL automatically generates a starting point for pupils based on their individual reading and spelling ability so children progress at their own rate.

We use IDL within our guided reading so children access between 20 – 25 minutes of IDL in school each week. However, it is recommended that children try and complete an hour a week to get maximum impact. It is not possible to devote an hour of the children's timetable to IDL in school time as we have so many other subjects to address. So, we include IDL as part of our homework.

All children (Y1 –Y6) will be given a password to log on at home with.

The grid below outlines a minimum expectation for IDL homework. If you wish to do more with your child in the holidays you can log on at any time – the more levels the pupils complete the more progress they make!

## **My Maths**

My Maths is an online programme that we use for Maths Homework.

The homework set will always be linked to what has been taught in class and will either consolidate learning or further challenge depending on the individual needs of the child.

All children (Y1 –Y6) will be given a password to log on at home with. The children will be set one piece of maths homework per week.

With My Maths the homework has to be completed in one go. You cannot dip in and out of the homework.

In My Maths the work is marked automatically at the end of the session so the child can see exactly what they have got wrong or right. They can have more than one attempt on a piece of homework as new questions are generated each time. If a child is struggling they can also watch the demonstrations to remind them which strategies, they should use.

## **Times Table – ‘Rock Star’ online resource**

We use a resource called ‘Rock Stars,’ to support with the learning of times tables. As most of you will be aware the Government have introduced a times table assessment test. Children in year 4 will now be assessed formally on their times tables.

Children will be provided with log in details and will be expected to complete their online timetables homework.

So, what are the children expected to know?

### **Y1/2**

2x, 3x, 5x and 10x

### **Y3/4**

2x, 3x, 4x, 5x, 6x, 7x, 8x, 9x, 10x, 11x and 12x

### **Y5/6**

Should be secure in all times tables and should know square numbers up to 20 squared

## **Purple Mash**

### Purple Mash

You will be aware that at Singleton we use Purple Mash to support our teaching of the computing curriculum. Purple Mash is a fantastic platform that covers a wide range of subjects from the National Curriculum. All pupils in Key Stage two use Purple Mash for weekly, multiplication practice, spelling practice and also weekly reading (reading is in addition to their school reading book).

Children’s log in details for Purple Mash will be stuck in their reading planner.

### Purple Mash - Spellings

Every week, children will come home with a ‘Look, cover, write and check’ sheet to work through. Once completed, they should log on to Purple Mash and complete the corresponding quiz, which will support their learning of the spellings. This will be followed up by a weekly spelling test.

### Serial Mash – Reading

Every week your child will be set a reading task from a book to read. They should read the chapter and then answer the online quiz. The children's scores are sent back to the teachers Purple Mash account.

### **Other information**

Children in year 6 will have additional homework in their run up to the statutory testing in May. This also support with the transition to high school where children are expected to carry out nightly homework for up to 2 hours a night.

Please encourage your child to learn at home in a positive way. Think very carefully about the praise and criticism you give. It can be very damaging to constantly tell children they are doing something wrong.

A more positive approach is to support the children in understanding that making mistakes are a vital part of learning. Encourage them to think about what they could do differently next time and what they have learnt from the mistake.

We try very hard to build confidence and we do this through an ethos that promotes self-belief. We encourage all our children to have a go, to understand that their talents and abilities can be developed through passion, education and persistence. We also work with our children to help them understand that for them it is about commitment to learning, taking risks and learning from mistakes. In school, we correct inaccuracies, which children should know and then challenge them with new learning.

We praise: -

- Effort
- Motivation
- New Learning
- Struggle and set backs
- Strategies and choices
- Choosing difficult and challenging tasks
- Improvement

It would be really helpful if you use the same approaches.

### **Singleton School Homework Plan – Years 1 – 6**

- Staff will check online homework (IDL/ABACUS/MY MATHS) is completed.
- Times tables may be tested throughout the week – but this should not affect the ongoing support with practise that you give at home.
- For Home projects/Presentations – instructions will be sent home separately.

Class	Maximum Time per day spent on homework	Daily homework	Weekly tasks		Homework Given out	Homework due in	Other
1/2		10 mins reading	My Maths	20/30mins	Friday online	Friday online	

	20 – 25 mins per night	each night.	Times tables	20/25 mins			Throughout the year the children will also have:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Home projects will be completed in the Spring and Summer terms.</li><li>• 'Talk' for writing homework when relevant and linked to literacy or a Talk Project.</li></ul>
		5 mins times tables per day Year Two only (but Year one is welcome to participate in this too)	Spellings	Daily	Friday on paper	Friday tests	
			SPAG.com	20/25 mins	Usually Friday's online- I will notify you when this is set next term	Friday online	
<b>Reading book information</b>							
Books will be changed on <b>Friday's</b>							

Class	Maximum Time per day spent on homework	Daily homework	Weekly tasks (Please note with IDL and tables you don't have to do it all in one go – you can spread out over the week.)		Homework Given out	Homework due in	Other
3/4	25 – 35 mins per night	10 mins reading each night  (Independent readers at least 3 times a week)	My Maths	20/30mins	Usually Friday's online	Usually Friday's online	Throughout the year the children will also have: - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Home projects – Information will be sent out separately regarding these</li> </ul>
			PURPLE MASH – times tables practice yr 4	20 mins	Usually Friday's online	N/A Just practice for Gov test yr4 However yr3 can also go on and have a go.	
			Times tables – Rock stars, Hit the button, Topmarks	20 mins	N/A	N/A	
			IDL	20 mins	N/A	N/A	
			Literacy-spellings	15 mins	Usually Friday's	Usually between Monday-Wednesday or date given	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This might be IDL, home projects or a specific piece of work Literacy/<b>spellings LCWC and purple</b></li> </ul>

							<b>mash quiz</b> or SPAG given to the children.
			Serial Mash	20 mins	Usually Monday's from 18 <sup>th</sup> sept	The following Monday	
<b>Reading book information</b>							
Books will be changed on <b>Monday's</b>							
<b>Home projects</b>							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The children will be set home projects throughout the year – these are research presentations</li> </ul>							

Class	Maximum Time per day spent on homework	Weekly tasks	Homework Given out	Homework due in
5/6	35 – 45 mins per night	My Maths (20 mins)	Friday	Friday
		Serial Mash (20 mins)	Wednesday	Wednesday (a new chapter will be set online)
		Spelling (20 mins)	Friday	Friday
		Reading	3 x 15 mins per week minimum	This is personal study and there are no set times
		Times tables	3 x 15 mins per week minimum	This is personal study and there are no set times
		IDL	3 x 15 mins per week minimum	This is personal study and there are no set times
Other	Throughout the year the children will also have:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presentation projects on Science and Maths Topics (your child will be given a date for their project)</li> <li></li> </ul> For Year 6, additional Homework will be sent linked to SATs preparation and also to prepare them for the demands of High school			

## Homework in Foundation Stage

We do not have a set pattern or rigid structure for homework within our foundation stage as the children come into school with very individual learning needs.

Learning together is the emphasis for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). The activities are Literacy based with a strong emphasis on reading together and phonics. Maths activities may be sent out as and when these are deemed appropriate.

## What type of work will my child get?

### Reading

In Foundation Stage, parents will be informed of the graphemes/phonemes and tricky words that the children are learning in school as they are learnt in lessons. Starting in the autumn term and continuing all year, the main emphasis is on reading at home. This should be done in two ways: -



**Adults reading to children.**

- Parents are encouraged to share books from their own homes, the School Library and other Library facilities. They are also asked to share reading in the environment when it is appropriate i.e. signs and captions in the street. Parents should encourage children to point to words as they are being read. Discussion about the books is important.

**Children reading to an adult.**

- When they are ready to, children will start bringing simple books home to 'read' to an adult. Some of the books in the first term will be 'text-less books' – much valuable conversation and discussion can be had about the pictures and the layout of the book. Again, encouraging the child to point to the words as they are being read is important. Discussing the story and the characters and asking questions about the book will help with the child's understanding of language.
- After 'text-less books' children will receive book with words. Typically children will receive 2 books per week.
  - One book will be fully decodable, meaning that your child will be able to segment and blend each word as these are matched to the current phonic level.
  - One book will contain 'context words', these are listed on the inside cover of every book. An adult should read these words for the child to copy. These 'context words' aim to increase vocabulary.

**Tricky words.**

Children learn to read tricky words as part of 'Red Rose Letters and Sounds' phonics scheme. Parents will be sent a list of the tricky words for each phase after the children have learned them. Regularly practising reading them, looking out for the words in reading books and playing games with them will really benefit the child. For some children, it will be useful to practise writing the words as well as reading them. The teachers may send home games to give parents some ideas. It would be useful if these words were practiced on a regular basis in the summer holiday before Year 1, as well as parents continuing to share books with their child.

**Letter formation.**

Children will receive letter formation cards and rhymes, which complement the Red Rose Letters and Sounds phonics scheme.

We ask that at home parents encourage the children to write/mark make at every opportunity.

Make it fun: -

- Shopping lists
- Letters to Father Christmas/Tooth Fairy
- Writing birthday cards
- Using a clip-board to make lists of all the insects they can find in the garden
- Writing a postcard



- Writing in the sand on the beach
- Making letters and numbers out of Playdough

Giving children the opportunity to practise forming letters and also developing drawing skills with a variety of different tools will give them valuable practice. The important thing is to watch them and correct any mistakes sensitively so they don't fall into bad habits.

### **Numeracy**

We encourage parents to count with their children up to twenty and to also encourage their children to read and write numbers. Throughout the year parents may be sent tasks linked to numeracy in class. However, there are lots of games that you can play:-

- Bingo
- Snakes and ladders
- Snap with number cards
- IPAD Apps
- Pairs – with numbers
- Looking for shapes around and about – (square window etc.)
- Money - recognising coins and counting

