



ST JOHN'S
A PRIORY ACADEMY

St John's Primary Academy

Homework





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In December 2024, we consulted with families regarding our approach to homework at St John's Primary Academy. We also considered various research projects, several of which note that homework given at primary school has less of an impact than that given at secondary school.

We recognise that this can be a highly debated issue, and the responses to our consultation confirmed this. There were clear opinions both for and against children of primary school age receiving homework. I have included responses from the survey in this booklet for your information.

We have tried to take as many of these views into account and present an approach that will benefit our children and families and the busy lives we know everyone leads. We are here to be 'champions' for our pupils. I appreciate all of the comments that say children are only children for a short amount of time, and to let them enjoy their time out of school with their families exploring their interests and hobbies!

However, we also know the importance of our role in ensuring children are prepared for the next phase of their education. We recognise the need for pupils to get into good homework habits and ready for secondary school. Many families also mentioned this during the consultation process. With this in mind, we would strongly encourage our older pupils to complete any homework set.

We have also taken into account the many responses which say that homework that is entirely online goes against healthy screen time habits and fails to develop children's handwriting and writing stamina, both of which are also important skills in preparing for secondary school. With this in mind, homework will be a combination of online learning and paper based homework dependant on year group.

This booklet outlines our approach to homework moving forward. We hope it makes clear our expectations and allows families to choose an approach that works for them.

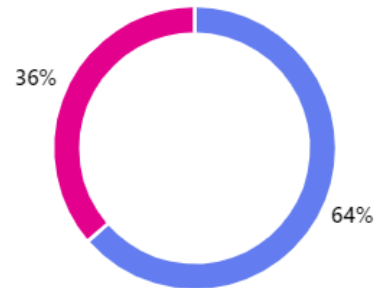
Thank you to everyone who took the time to share their views and thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Emma Jefferson
Headteacher

December 2024 Parent Survey Responses

2. Do you want us to set homework for children other than regular reading practice?

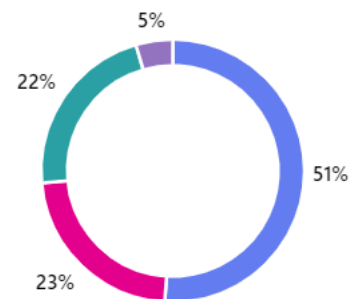
- Yes 63
- No 36



4. There are many approaches to homework. Which of these styles, if any, do you prefer?

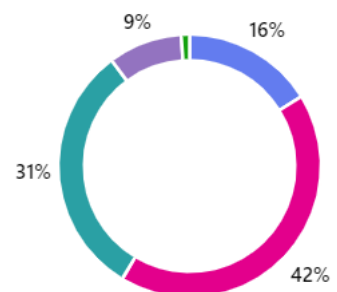
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- Worksheets 79
- Open ended projects linked with a theme to be completed over a period of time which could be... 35
- Digital apps / websites 34
- Other 7



5. How much time do you think your child should spend completing homework each week?

- No time 16
- Up to 30 minutes a week 42
- Between 30 - 60 minutes a week 31
- 1 - 2 hours a week 9
- Over 2 hours a week 1



6. Would you prefer to have time for children to complete homework at a weekend or would you want them to complete it during the week?

- Handed out Monday - returned Friday 41
- Handed out mid week - returned on a Monday 58



Early Years (Reception)

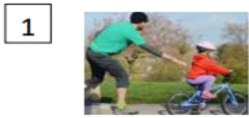


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The most important skills for our children in Early Years are phonics and reading. We want children to develop their reading skills and encourage a love of reading.

To achieve this we suggest that children should practice reading their books at least 3 times a week and that families enjoy the sharing book to develop that love of reading.

In addition, we want our early years pupils to experience all the fun that being 4 and 5 brings! We've included 80 ideas below which may give some ideas for some great fun. These are entirely optional however we'd love for families to share on Tapestry if the children complete any of these!



Go on a bike ride Completed:



Climb a tree Completed:



Go rockpooling Completed:



Play Hide and Seek Completed:



Roll down a hill Completed:



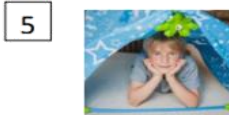
Build a den outside Completed:



Make a fairy or elf garden Completed:



Go to the cinema Completed:



Build a den inside



Fly a kite Completed:



Make a wild animal home Completed:



Dig a hole Completed:



Make a mud pie Completed:



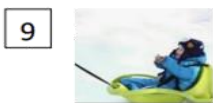
Hold a minibeast Completed:



Go on a train ride Completed:



Go on a bus ride Completed:



Ride on a sledge Completed:



Feed the ducks Completed:



Visit with an older person Completed:



Go on a treasure hunt Completed:



Smell some wild flowers Completed:



Swing on a tarzee Completed:



Play a board game Completed:



Complete a jigsaw puzzle Comple



Visit the library Completed:



Visit a museum Completed:



Watch the sun set Completed:



Wrap a present Completed:



Hunt for beach treasure Completed:



Help a charity Completed:



Make a card for someone Completed:



Climb a big hill Completed:



Help with a shopping trip Completed:



Make an instrument & play it Completed



Make a new friend Completed:



Blow bubbles Completed:



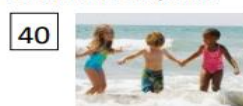
Watch a live show Completed:



Go on a hike Completed



Go swimming Completed:



Paddle in the sea Completed:

Early Years (Reception) continued



41



Help care for an animal Completed:

42



Help with some housework Completed:

51



Fill and pour at bathtime Completed:

52



Build a tower taller than you Completed:

43



Learn a poem or rhyme Completed:

44



Have a toys' tea party Completed:

53



Use a torch in the dark Completed:

54



Make a shadow Completed:

45



Blow candles out on a cake Completed:

46



Make a shopping list Completed:

55



Catch a snowflake Completed:

56



Eat your tea with a knife & fork Completed

47



Bounce! Completed:

48



Run a race Completed:

57



Count some steps Completed

58



Go on a shape hunt outside Completed

49



Go to a celebration Completed:

50



Feed the birds in your garden Completed:

59



71



Pick fruit and eat it Completed:

60



Tell us something you've done that you're

61



Go on a Winter walk Completed:

62



Go on a Spring walk Completed:

72



Gaze at the stars Completed:

63



Go on a Summer walk

64



Go on an Autumn walk Completed:

73



Have a picnic Completed:

74



Lick an ice cream cone Completed:

65



Explore a cave

66



Make and eat jelly Completed:

75



Have your face painted Completed:

76



Wear a costume Completed:

67



Taste something new Completed:

68



Watch fireworks Completed:

77



Play pool-sticks Completed:

78



Learn a dance Completed:

69



Snuggle with a story Completed:

70



Make someone smile Completed:

79



Perform in a show Completed:

80



Try a new sport Completed:

Years 1 and 2

Following on from EYFS, our aim is that children in year 1 and 2 continue to develop their phonics and reading ability.

We ask that children practise their reading books at least 3 times a week, and that families enjoy the sharing book to further develop that love of reading.

It is also useful for children in Years 1 and 2 to begin to learn their times tables – notably their 2x, 5x and 10x tables but this should be done in a fun, non-pressured way.

Playing board games is also a good way of developing early maths skills as well as counting both forwards and backwards.

Children can also take part in an optional topic home project as detailed later in this booklet.



Years 3 and 4

We ask that children read their reading books at least 3 times a week.

Times tables become really important in these year groups as they tend to unlock many other areas of Maths. We know that children can begin to struggle with topics like fractions and division if they don't have a secure knowledge of their multiplication facts up to the 12 times table. It is an expectation that all pupils should know their multiplication facts by the end of Year 4.

All pupils will receive a login for Times Table Rockstars. We find this a really fun, engaging way to learn times tables and the children can compete with each other and in class challenges. We would encourage the children to take part in these challenges.

Children can also take part in an optional topic home project as detailed in this booklet.



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Years 5 and 6



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We ask that children read their reading books at least 3 times a week.

We recognise that in Years 5 and 6, the children are becoming more independent in their learning habits and this is a good time to start preparing pupils for secondary school expectations regarding homework. We also want to support the children to prepare for their SATs at the end of Year 6.

We will therefore provide weekly homework for Years 5 & 6. This is optional but strongly encouraged. There will not be any consequences for children who do not complete their homework, however we will reward and recognise the effort of pupils who do choose to complete it.

Following the consultation, we recognise that the majority of families would prefer worksheets for their children to complete. With this in mind we will provide 1 piece of English homework and 1 piece of Maths homework a week which should take approximately 20-30 minutes per subject to complete.

In Year 5, this will be given as worksheets only. In Year 6, there will be the option for children to collect either a worksheet or access the homework via Teams.

Many secondary schools use online systems to give out, collect and track homework. Therefore, if we can do something to support the children in accessing their work independently online then we feel that we should do this. Paper copies will be available for those who prefer, however these will need to be requested from the class teacher.

We have taken into consideration those families who wish to have the weekends to complete the work and those who prefer to do it in the week. With this in mind, children will have 7 days to complete their homework.

Children can also take part in an optional topic home project as detailed later in this booklet.

We would like to make families aware that the children's homework will not be marked in detail. Our purpose for homework is to prepare good habits for secondary school and not to assess what the children can and can't do, as this is done within the classroom setting. If the children are finding their homework difficult, they can speak to their teacher about it who will be able to offer support.

During the Spring term Year 6 will carry out the national SATs tests. There will be the option for families to purchase CGP practice test papers for a small cost to help with revision. Again, these are completely optional but provide another resource for families who do want their children to do some additional study at home.

If your child is finding something in school difficult, their class teacher may discuss some extra practice at home with you and provide some resources to support. This will be discussed with you in order to work in partnership but should not provide any stress or upset for your child or family.



Optional Themed Projects



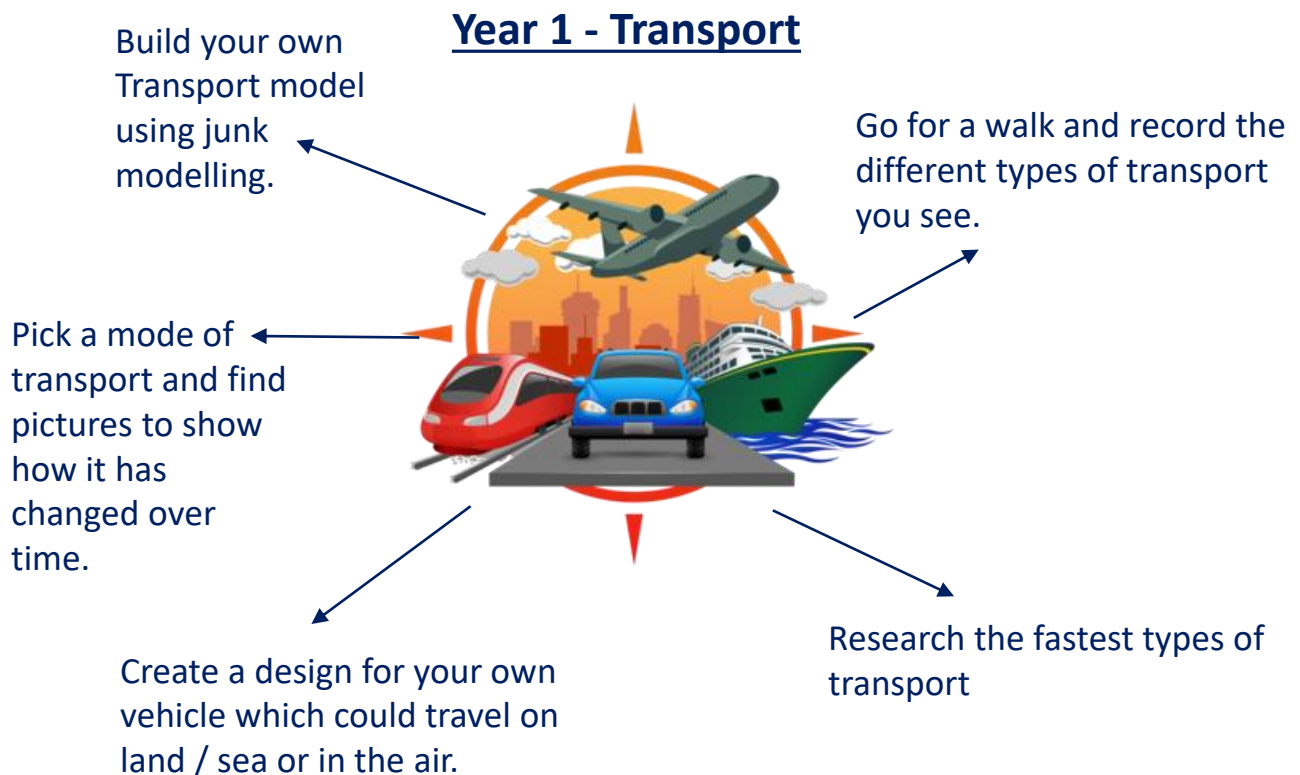
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We recognise that some children (and families) get really absorbed into what they may be learning about in the wider curriculum. Sometimes, this can spark a real interest and desire to find out more. Therefore, children have the option to complete a themed project around their learning for the term. This could be presented in any way – a written project, something completed using ICT, a model / sculpture, a piece of artwork – anything which encourages the children to think creatively about their learning.

Projects can then be brought in at the end of the term and shared with the class. This is entirely optional however we will reward and recognise the effort that children have put into these projects if they do choose to complete them.

You can see on the next few pages what each year group focuses on in each term so that you can decide if you would like to undertake a project linked to any of these topics.

An example topic and the different ways a project could be completed is shown below. There is no right or wrong way to complete these!





Optional Themed Projects – KS1

ST JOHN'S A PRIORY ACADEMY	Year 1	Year 2
Autumn 1	Our Local Area – Geography Seasons - Science	The World - Geography Local Habitats - Science
Autumn 2	Remembrance – History Human Body and Senses - Science	Explorers - History Choosing Materials - Science
Spring 1	The UK - Geography Different Materials – Science	Hot and cold places - Geography Growing seeds and bulbs - Science
Spring 2	Transport - History Different Materials - Science	Lincoln's Buildings - History Growing Up - Science
Summer 1	Wonderful Water - Geography Animals - Science	Farms – UK and Nigeria - Geography Changing Materials - Science
Summer 2	Great Fire of London - History Plants - Science	School in the past - History Growing healthy plants - Science



Optional Themed Projects – KS2

ST JOHN'S A PRIORY ACADEMY	Year 3	Year 4
Autumn 1	Rivers – Geography Rocks, soils, fossils - Science	Ancient Greece – History Changes of state - Science
Autumn 2	Stone Age to Iron Age – History Light and Shadows- Science	Volcanoes and Earthquakes - Geography Electricity - Science
Spring 1	Roman Lincoln - History Forces and Friction - Science	Anglo Saxons and Scots- History Human impact on the environment - Science
Spring 2	Europe - Geography Movement and Nutrition for Human Body - Science	Journey of Food inc. Fairtrade - Geography Digestion and Food Chains - Science
Summer 1	Europe - Geography Flowering Plants - Science	Coasts: UK and Italy - Geography Sound - Science
Summer 2	Ancient Egypt - History Life Cycles - Science	Vikings and Anglo Saxons- History Classification of plants and animals - Science



Optional Themed Projects – KS2

ST JOHN'S A PRIORY ACADEMY	Year 5	Year 6
Autumn 1	Ancient Benin – History Forces and Mechanisms - Science	City life: London and Rio de Janeiro – Geography Classifying Living Things - Science
Autumn 2	Transatlantic Slave Trade – History Properties and uses of materials - Science	World War 2 - History Evolution and Inheritance - Science
Spring 1	North and South America - Geography Earth and Space - Science	Lincoln's Role in WW2 - History Light - Science
Spring 2	North and South America - Geography Plant and Animal Life Cycles- Science	Maps – Geography Human Circulation - Science
Summer 1	Industrial Revolution - History Separating mixtures- Science	Medicine through the Ages – History Electricity - Science
Summer 2	Trade and Economics - Geography Human Growth- Science	Future Planet – Geography Body Health- Science

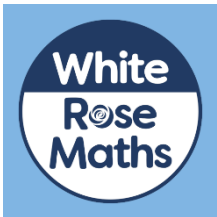
Homework Apps / Websites



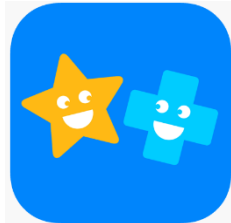
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Some parents in our consultation said that a handy crib sheet of useful Apps to support learning at home would be beneficial. Here are some apps that can support learning across a range of subjects.

EYFS / KS1



1 minute Maths



Doodle Maths



Hungry Fish



Tell the time



Teach your monster to read



Tappity Science



Stack the countries



Art set



Beebot



Scratch Junior

KS2



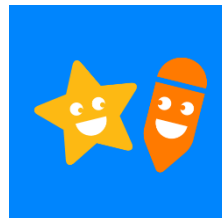
Times table rockstars



Sumdog



White Rose Infinity



Doodle Spell



Popwords!



Word bingo!



French for kids



Tappity Science



Stack the countries



Google Earth!



Art set



Noteworks



Tell the time