

## HOME LEARNING: A Parents & Carers Guide

### What the purpose of Home Learning?

- For school and parents to work together to help our pupils.
- To consolidate new skills and understanding learned in class.
- Exploit resources for learning of all kinds at home.
- To develop pupils' ideas and thinking e.g. through additional reading
- To encourage pupils, as they get older, to develop the confidence and self-discipline needed to study with increasing independence, and prepare them for secondary school and their adult lives.
- Balance the curriculum by setting home learning tasks from those areas which have not always been recently 'explored'.
- Share with parents on a week by week basis, what children have been learning in school



### We aim to:

- Ensure a consistent approach to home learning throughout school
- Ensure the needs of the individual are taken into consideration
- Ensure parents, pupils & teachers have a clear understanding of what is required.
- Provide high quality of learning for our pupils.
- Further develop our partnership with parents.
- **Make learning fun for everyone.**



## How much time should be spent on home learning?

Home Learning is set regularly and the amount increases as the child gets older. The policy has been designed to allow flexibility. As a rough guide, it should take the following amounts of time:

Reception	5 minutes a night, when possible (share a book, signed story or PSP time)
Year 1	5-10 minutes three times a week
Year 2	5-10 minutes three times a week
Year 3	10 - 15 minutes three times a week
Year 4	10 – 15 minutes three times a week
Year 5	15 - 20 minutes three times a week
Year 6	15 – 20 minutes three times a week

- Parents are notified on which night home learning will be set.
- Home learning should be for the weekdays, leaving the weekends free for family activities.
- Parents are encouraged to spend time reading *to and with* their children in addition to the time spent on home learning.
- Furthermore, parents are encouraged to use photographs on the PSPs or on the school website as a vehicle to develop a shared communication about school life. The weekly BSL Newsround can also be used to develop the language skills of both child and family.

**Children at Longwill School have a very long day and spend a lot of time before and after school travelling in taxis to and from school.**

**It is, therefore, important that they have time at home to relax and play. We recommend that home learning is done ‘little and often’ so that they can still have opportunities to relax, play and run about each evening.**

### Online learning activities at home

We believe that ICT and the internet offer our pupils a wealth of learning opportunities which are outside the school environment. These have proved invaluable over COVID-19 lockdown. We encourage all pupils to make use of and learn from these websites that we subscribe to as a school.

<a href="http://www.longwill.bham.sch.uk">www.longwill.bham.sch.uk</a>	<a href="http://www.purplemash.com/sch/longwill">www.purplemash.com/sch/longwill</a>
<a href="http://www.discoveryeducation.co.uk">www.discoveryeducation.co.uk</a>	<a href="http://www.mathletics.co.uk">www.mathletics.co.uk</a>
<a href="http://www.activelearnprimary.co.uk">www.activelearnprimary.co.uk</a>	<a href="http://www.trockstars.com/auth/school">www.trockstars.com/auth/school</a>
<a href="https://login.readiwriter.com/">https://login.readiwriter.com/</a>	



- **How does my child access these websites?**

**[www.longwill.bham.sch.uk](http://www.longwill.bham.sch.uk)**

This is our school website. You will find lots of information about what we are up to under the 'Learning' tab. Login details will be attached to this booklet.

**[www.purplemash.com/sch/longwill](http://www.purplemash.com/sch/longwill)**

This website has hundreds of fun educational activities. Sometimes teachers may set this as 'home learning', but please encourage your child to enjoy its games and activities freely as often as they like! Your child will need an individual password to access this site.

Please see the back page of this booklet for your child's username and password.

**[www.discoveryeducation.co.uk](http://www.discoveryeducation.co.uk)**

Espresso Primary is an award-winning, digital resource service that is used in thousands of schools across the UK. It includes videos, multimedia activities, a weekly news service, printable resources and much more. Your child will need an individual password to access this site.

Please see the back page of this booklet for your child's username and password.

**[www.mathletics.co.uk](http://www.mathletics.co.uk)**

This is an online maths website which we subscribe to because it provides us with an exciting, fun and valuable way of learning all about maths! Your child will need an individual password to access this site. Please see the back page of this booklet for your child's username and password.

**[www.activelearnprimary.co.uk](http://www.activelearnprimary.co.uk)**

This website's activities and games promote independent learning and will improve your child's reading, spelling and grammar. Teachers can personalise reading activities to suit the level and needs of your child. Your child will need an individual password to access this site. Please see the back page of this booklet for your child's username and password.

**[www.readiwriter.com/](http://www.readiwriter.com/)**

Readiwriter is a fun and engaging website that delivers a rich understanding of spelling in an engaging way. Please see the back page of this booklet for your child's username and password.

**[www.ttrockstars.com/auth/school](http://www.ttrockstars.com/auth/school)**

Times Tables Rock Stars is a carefully sequenced programme of daily times tables practice to support your child's learning. Please see the back page of this booklet for your child's username and password.



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**Tips for good home learning habits**

- Do find a quiet place at home to use as a home learning area. It needs a flat surface, a good light source and the right equipment e.g. pens, pencils, ruler, scissors, glue.

- Do plan a home learning timetable and agree on when your child will do their home learning.
- Do allow your child to have something to eat before starting on home learning.
- Do discuss any tasks with your child and how it connects with what they are learning at school.
- Do turn **off** the TV!
- Don't give your child the answer in order to get a task finished. Instead, explain how to look up information or find a word in a dictionary.
- Don't let home learning become a chore. Keep it fun and make it a special time that you both look forward to.



## **THE Home Learning Q&A HANDBOOK FOR PARENTS & CARERS**

**Q1. My child keeps forgetting to bring his home learning tasks home. How do I know which days to expect it, so that I can remind him?**

**A1.** Class newsletters at the start of each term give details of what days' home learning can be expected.

**Q2. My child keeps forgetting to hand it in. What can I do?**

**A2.** Teachers do their best to chase up home learning but it is very time-consuming. Parents can help by reminding children in the morning to give it in. Children are encouraged to be independent as much as possible. We accept this does not always work.

**Q3. Home Learning always ends up being a battle. What should I do?**

**A3.** Choose your time carefully. Don't make your child miss his favourite TV programme, or make him do it when he is too tired or hungry. If it continues to be a battle, have a word with the teachers. They may have ways to motivate your child.

**Q4. There hasn't been time to do the home learning this week. What should we do?**

**A4.** We are very understanding and accept that sometimes it is not possible to fit it in to a busy week. Write a note or send a text to the teacher.

**Q5. My child's home learning tasks are too long/too short/too hard/too easy.**

**A5.** If it is taking too long, don't pressurise your child to finish it. It is important for him to have time to play, relax, and spend time with friends and family. Allow him to stop (if she or

he wants to) when the time limit is reached and write a note to the teacher explaining why it is not finished. If home it seems to be too hard or too easy, please speak to the teacher. Many children work at a different pace at home and school. Some find it harder to concentrate at home, some find it easier.

**Q6. How much help should I give my child?**

**A6.** Be prepared to help your child but not to the point of doing it for them. If your explanation seems to confuse her, stop and talk to the teacher. If you check your child's work and get her to correct her mistakes, please let the teacher know. In years 5 and 6, for project work, helping your child with research would be very valuable.

**Q7. My child has got stuck with the maths and won't let me help because I try to do it 'the wrong way'.**

**A7.** Send a note explaining that your child tried but was unable to finish the work. The teacher can then go over it again in school. The way that maths is taught has changed so don't worry if it is different to the way you learned. Talk to the teacher if you want to know more.

**Q9. How often should I write comments about my child's home learning and how/where should I do this?**

**A9.** We really value feedback from parents - it is very helpful. If you have time to write comments, please do it as often as possible. Children can write comments too if they want.

**Q10. How often should I write comments in my child's reading journal?**

**A10.** It is important to read or share a book with your child as often as possible. Teachers understand how busy things can get so try to write at least once or twice a week in the reading journal.

**Q11. My daughter tries to cheat when reading, by looking at the pictures. Should I cover them up and make her read all the words?**

**A11. NO!** Don't worry - this is completely normal. In *all* stages of learning to read children are actively encouraged to use pictures as clues to the words. It is an important learning step. The whole point of reading is for interest and pleasure; please don't make your child regard it as a 'test' each time. Emphasise your enjoyment and keep relaxed, ready to help with any words that your child does not know.

**Q12. I do not agree with home learning tasks - is it compulsory?**

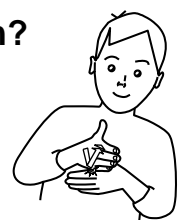
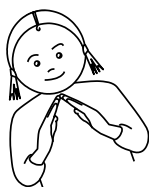
**A12.** It is not compulsory for children. However, we believe that home learning is valuable for many reasons e.g. for children's development and independence and to help parents share and support their child's learning (see Home Learning Policy).

**Q13. Will sanctions be taken if it is not handed in on time?**

**A13.** Yes, especially if this happens repeatedly. Your child may have to stay in at playtime and complete outstanding work.

**Q14. Does quality home learning come under the school reward system?**

**A14. YES!**



My home learning has been fun because I did it with my family.

I found my home learning difficult but I persevered.

**Home Learning Feedback Sheet**

Name:

Class:

Term:

Teacher Comments:

Pupil Comments:

Parent/Carers' Comments:

Parent signature:

Date:

