

Homework at St Thomas' Primary School



A Guide for Parents and Carers

Our Approach to Homework

At St Thomas' Primary School, homework is designed to **support learning without placing unnecessary pressure on children or families**. Homework helps students practise and consolidate what they have already learned at school, develop independence, and build positive learning habits.

Homework is **encouraged but not compulsory**.

Why Do We Set Homework?

Homework helps students to:

- Practise and reinforce skills taught in class
- Develop good routines, responsibility and organisation
- Build confidence and fluency, especially in **Reading, Spelling and Mathematics**
- Grow independence and skills for lifelong learning

Homework is **not used to teach new concepts**.

What Does Homework Look Like?

Homework may include:

- Daily reading
- Spelling or sight word practice
- Mathematics skills or number facts
- Short, meaningful tasks linked to classroom learning
- In the upper years, there may be the occasional research project.
- Opportunities to engage with parents or other family members.

Tasks are clear, purposeful and age appropriate.

How Much Homework Is Expected?

Homework is usually set **Monday to Thursday only**.

Time expectations are a guide and will vary between children, and throughout the week, depending on after school commitments/activities.

Year Level	Homework Approx. Time	In addition Home Reading
Year 1	Max. 10 minutes	10-20 minutes
Year 2	Max. 15 minutes	10-20 minutes
Year 3	Max. 20 minutes	10-20 minutes
Year 4	Max. 25 minutes	10-20 minutes
Year 5	Max. 30 minutes	10-20 minutes
Year 6	Max. 35 minutes	10-20 minutes

If homework is taking much longer or causing stress, families are encouraged to contact the classroom teacher.

Reading – Our Most Important Priority

Reading is the most valuable homework-related activity at every year level.

- **10–20 minutes of reading each evening** is strongly encouraged from Pre-Primary to Year 6
- Reading may be shared, oral or independent
- Reading is **not counted as homework** and is **in addition** to the homework as shown in the table above.

When Homework Is Not Required

Homework will not be set for children who are:

- Unwell
- Away on holidays

During these times, families may choose to support learning through reading, journal writing or practical mathematics in everyday life.

How Parents and Carers Can Help

You can support your child by:

- Providing a quiet, comfortable space to work
- Establishing a regular routine that suits your family
- Supplying basic equipment and digital access when needed
- Showing interest and encouragement
- **Guiding and supporting – not completing the work for your child**

Your role is to support independence and confidence.

Wellbeing Comes First

We recognise that children learn best when they are **well-rested, happy and supported**.

If you have any questions or concerns about homework, please speak with your child's teacher.

St Thomas' Primary School