

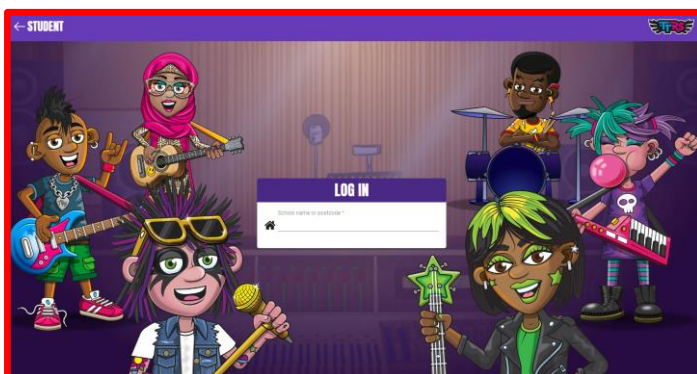
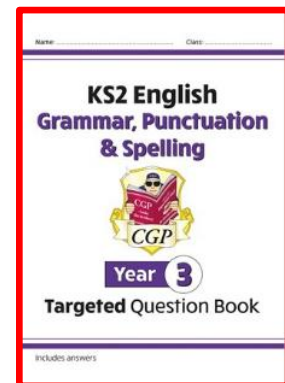
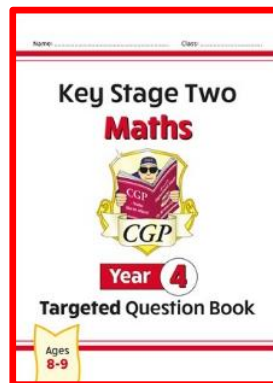
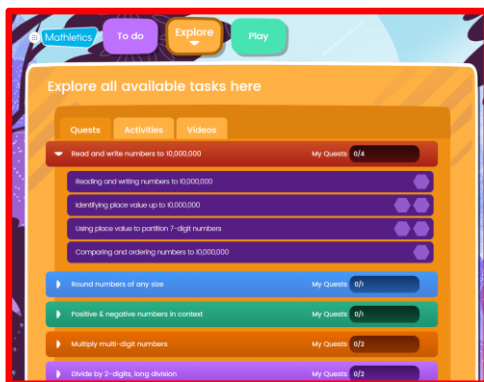


Homework – An Update for Parents/Carers

Dear Parents/Carers,

Following your recent completion of the parent survey, we wanted to write and update you on our **homework provision** and **signpost you to some of the ways you can support your child with their learning**. Behind the scenes, we have been considering some changes across our teaching staff which, many will be pleased to hear, echo the feedback received. We made the last, most significant, changes to homework back in July 2019. This was at a time, well before COVID-19, in which many families felt overwhelmed by the expectations placed on them and there was a consensus that homework was adding to the pressures of family life. We were quite heavily into extended projects at this time; offering pupils a theme of study to really 'get their teeth into' over a half-term. As far as the subject of homework goes, we know that we will never please every family regarding homework; family views vary enormously. We have families asking for more, some asking for less and others asking for none at all. We try to find a centre ground when planning the way forward and provide suggestions for those of you seeking more study at home.

As a school, we **purchase online subscriptions**, per pupil, for **Mathletics**, **Reading Plus** and **Times Tables Rock Stars**. Fortunately, these online platforms were already in place and familiar to our pupils prior to the first lockdown; this gave pupils some valuable experience of online learning before the time in which this had to be adopted as the temporary 'norm'. Data shows that these are popular with our pupils and are regularly accessed to complete the assigned tasks. However, lockdowns have shown us that whilst some families prefer online learning, others do not. We aim to find a balance. Subscriptions to these services will continue for now, however, with varying degrees of access, we have also **purchased a homework book for every pupil** for **mathematics, grammar and comprehension**. Teachers will set weekly activities to be completed from these books (recorded in Pupil Planners). Mark schemes are contained within the books so parents can monitor how their child is doing.



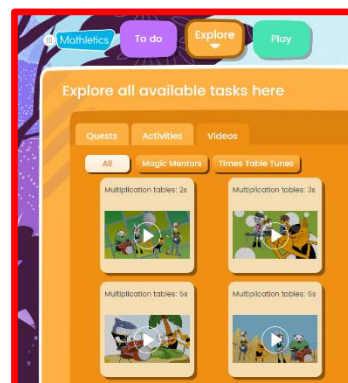
Revised regular homework expectations – From September 2023

- Reading daily with an adult and recording this in Pupil Planners.
- Learning spellings (set on a Monday and tested on a Friday. There is also a termly spelling bee competition – teachers will advise when and which spellings to learn).
- Grammar study book – teachers will specify which pages each week.
- Mathematics study book – teachers will specify which pages each week.
- Comprehension study book – teachers will specify which pages each fortnight.
- Year 3 – additional handwriting tasks, when required.
- Years 3 and 4 – weekly practise of specific multiplication tables (option to use TTRS online).
- Years 5 and 6 – mental mathematics practise, as outlined by teachers.
- Optional – further practise of core skills through Reading Plus, TTRS and Mathletics online (in some instances, where particular topics require further attention, teachers may signpost to specific parts of this software). Extension tasks (optional) may also be outlined on your child's year group page on our website.

Further useful resources

For those of you keen to explore more with your child, please be aware that Mathletics contains '**Tables Toons**' – catchy songs which take you through each multiplication table to help your child remember these facts. Although the mathematics team send out an annual reminder on mental mathematics expectations, it is worth highlighting that the national expectation is for all pupils to know, off by heart, their **multiplication (times) tables up to 12 x 12 by the Summer Term of Year 4.**

Remember, you can continue your use of our online subscription packages – Mathletics, Times Tables Rock Stars and Reading Plus, all of which contain a wealth of material for further practise of core skills.

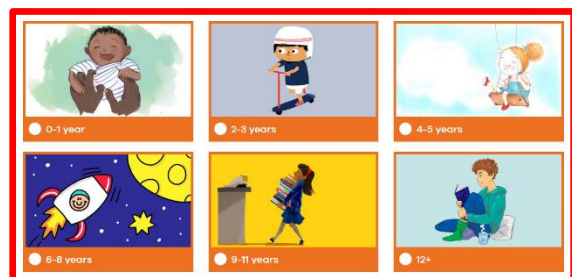


White Rose Maths has produced an excellent, free app called '**White Rose Maths – 1 Minute Maths**'. This can be downloaded onto a phone or tablet and is a great way for younger pupils to increase the fluency of their addition, subtraction, multiplication, division and subitising (when you look at a group of objects and know how many are there without counting) skills.

Oxford Owl – this website, by Oxford University Press, enables families to sign up and gain access to lots of e-books (see 'free e-book library') and plenty of general guidance on supporting your child.



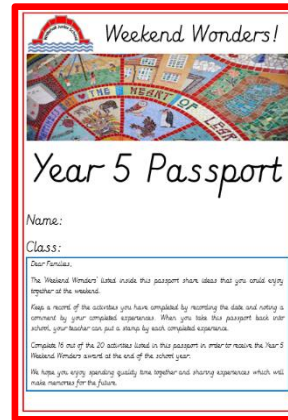
Your **local library** – we are privileged to have free access to our local libraries, with Hillingdon's biggest library (Uxbridge) literally a few minutes' walk from school. The library is free to join for local residents and we cannot stress enough that the more your child reads, and the wider their vocabulary becomes, the better their future opportunities. This is a great time of year to cosy up and enjoy a book together. For



further ideas and suggestions, take a look at **The Book Trust's** website, where you can search children's book recommendations by age and interests. <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/>

Weekend Wonders

Started as an optional family resource when parents felt longer-term projects were getting too much, our termly Weekend Wonders give suggested ideas of activities you could enjoy as a family. The discussion while engaging in these is just as important as the experience itself. Miss Chick emails out year group suggestions termly so look out for these.



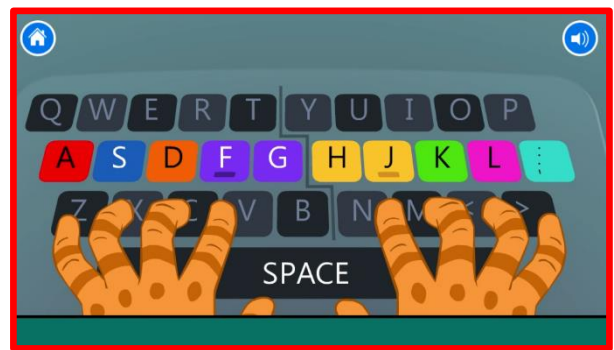
Activity	Date	Evidence (Video)	Stamp
1. Visit a local landmark or place of interest			
2. Visit a museum			
3. Learn for 10 minutes			
4. Learn for 15 minutes			
5. Learn for 20 minutes			
6. Try again			

Pupil Planners If you haven't already done so, please take a good look at your child's pupil planner. These have been designed specifically by us, to ensure that

there are useful reference pages to support your child's learning in Key Stage 2; they aren't just a diary for recording reading! Open the coloured pages (not the yellow section) to retrieve all kinds of facts they will need to learn.



BBC Dance Mat Typing— With so much use of technology, giving your child efficient keyboard typing skills really enables them to learn efficiently and not be held back because they aren't



familiar with the layout of letters and punctuation. This free resource offers an online typing tool that gets them off to good touch-typing habits for future study.

(<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zf2f9j6/articles/z3c6tfr>)

Our School Website – Learn more about your child's curriculum coverage

Visit our own school website to learn more about what your child will study this year. Why not visit a

place of interest, as a family, which links to this learning? Visit our **Curriculum & Assessment** page (under the 'Key Information' menu) to learn all that your child will cover by clicking on the 'Curriculum Overviews' near the bottom of the page. You may also find it helpful, to support with homework, to watch some of the 15 **videos** pupils have made which demonstrate different **mathematics strategies**. These can be found in 'Parents' – 'Useful Information' – 'Mathematics'.

Also, each term, our Year Leaders update their year group's page ('Children' – 'Year Group Pages & Remote Education'). They upload a **Curriculum Newsletter** (giving specific

information for your child's year group), **Vocabulary lists** (a school-produced resource which gives all the subject-specific/technical vocabulary your child will encounter) and **Knowledge Mats** (which provide a summary of background knowledge to the history, geography and science units of study). Such resources will give you a good insight into the learning your child will encounter across all subjects of the National Curriculum. You may wish to visit the library and borrow some non-fiction books to explore this learning further at home. If your child would thrive on putting together their own

project on a subject of interest, do encourage them to do so and to bring this in to show us.

SCIENCE – Year 6 Electricity Vocabulary List 2022			
Word	Meaning	Synonyms	Similar words
electricity	energy made available by the flow of electric charge through a conductor	current	Electrifying, electrons, electrical, electric
circuit	to go or move around, make the circuit of	Chain, circumference	circle
switch	a mechanical, electrical, electronic, or optical device for opening or closing a circuit or for diverting energy from one part of a circuit to another		
electrons	a unit of charge equal to the charge on one electron		Electricity, electrical, electric
component	a part of a mechanical or electrical system	Part, material, constituent, particle	
battery	a combination of two or more cells electrically connected to work together to produce electric energy.	Power, cell	

Year 6: Light Knowledge Mat

Subject Specific Vocabulary

light wave	One of the characteristics of light is that it behaves like a wave. Light can be defined by its wavelength and frequency. The frequency is how fast the waves vibrate up and down.
light source	Light or illumination. is a form of energy that travels in waves. For sound, you can find different sources of light such as a candle or the sun.
concave	is a lens that curves inward and reflects light differently as a result.
convex	is a lens that curves outward and reflects light differently as a result.
filters	A filter is a transparent material that absorbs some colours and allows others to pass through.
lens	A lens is a curved piece of glass or plastic designed to refract light in a specific way.
retina	The retina is at the back of your eye and it has light sensitive cells called rods and cones.
cornea	The cornea is the clear outer covering of your eye. It's important because it helps you see by focusing light on to the eye.
iris	By opening and closing the pupil, the iris can control the amount of light that enters the eye.
pupil	The pupil can be compared with the shutter of a camera. It's surrounded by the iris which is the coloured part of the eye.

Slicky Knowledge about Light

- Light will travel in a completely straight line until it hits an object that will bend it.
- Space does not have any light. We can see things in space due to light bouncing off of the objects in space.
- Light doesn't travel as fast when it has to pass through mediums that are different, such as air, water or glass.
- The light that we see from the sun actually left the sun ten minutes before we see it.
- Light can be controlled and produced in so many ways. A camera can control the amount of light that comes into the camera lens. We also use light in televisions, medical systems, copy machines, telescopes and satellites.
- Light is used by plants to convert the light into energy as their 'food'. The process is called 'photosynthesis' and converts carbon dioxide through the energy of the light.

Important facts to know by the end of the light topic:

- Know that light travels in straight lines.
- Understand that because light travels in straight lines objects are seen because they give out or reflect light into the eye.
- Know that we see things because light travels from light sources to our eyes or from light sources to objects and then to our eyes.
- Know that light travels in straight lines and therefore shadows have the same shape as the objects that cast them.

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Termly updates on learning

As you will have already received, each term your child's class teacher will provide you with a copy of their 'Attainment & Attitude Record'. This is not their school report, it is simply giving you the latest information on how your child has done on assessments of their English and mathematics learning. It gives you an indication of how they are doing and how they are applying themselves in school. We do not believe in waiting until the end of the Summer Term to share such information with you – by then, it is too late to address areas requiring further focus. Families have found these termly updates most useful – there should be no surprises when you receive your child's end of year report; we keep you informed throughout.

My Attainment and Attitude Record				
Name:	Class:	Year:	Monitor/Teacher:	
English	Maths	Science	Reading	Spelling
History	Geography	Art	PSHE	PE
TERMLY STANDARDISED ASSESSMENT (SATS) across the middle of the assessment period				
SELECT		Autumn	Spring	Summer
ADDITIONAL ASSESSMENTS				
Reading Age Range				
Reading words per minute	70	80	90	100
Spelling Age Range & Score	NA	NA	NA	NA
TERMLY TEACHER ASSESSMENT (Minimum/Maximum Age appropriate)				
ATTITUDE		Autumn	Spring	Summer
Attendance				
Punctuality				
Behaviour				
Homework				
Classroom Practice				
Target				
Support/Intervention		Signed (Teacher)	Signed (Parent)	
<small>For use where the school has a policy of termly assessment, this record should be completed at the end of each term. It is not intended to be used for individual children who are not assessed termly. It is not intended to be used for children who are assessed termly but who are not assessed in the current term.</small>				
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We hope you find this information and the suggested ideas useful. We have listened to your views and we trust that your much-requested return to paper-based homework is also welcomed. Thank you for your continued support.

The Staff of Whitehall Junior School
September 2023