

# Home Learning

## Emmbrook Junior School 2019-20

### Why do we set home learning tasks?

- **To inform parents about work going on in class**
- **To further stimulate enthusiasm for learning**
- **To take advantage of the home environment and resources and the chance for some one-to-one adult time**
- **To provide a great source for gathering topic information to share with all the children**
- **To provide an opportunity to practise key skills**
- **To foster good habits of organisation and self-discipline in preparation for secondary school.**

We believe that home learning should be enjoyable and manageable for all concerned. However, we respect that weekends are precious for families and can sometimes be very busy. If homework becomes a chore or source of conflict, then it ceases to be a constructive aspect of teaching and learning. Therefore, we have tailored our home-learning expectations accordingly:

- **Daily reading**  
Children are given a library book (that they choose for themselves) and a reading scheme book that we select for them. There are several opportunities each week for children to change their books once they have finished their current one. We expect all children to read at home **at least five times a week for a minimum of ten minutes**. They can either read to an adult or to themselves. All we ask is that their reading record is signed by you or your child after each session. Every week, each class's reading sessions are totalled and entered into the inter-house Reading Race to get a termly grand total for each house. Any house that has achieved 2000 reading sessions or more in the term gets a reward.
- **Weekly learning of multiplication tables and related number facts**  
Our aim is for all children to have mastered their times tables up to 12 x 12 by the end of Year 4 (although quick times table recall remains a focus for Years 5 and 6 too). Once they have achieved this, we teach them how to apply their times table knowledge in other contexts. These stages get progressively more challenging. All children have now completed a diagnostic times tables assessment identifying their starting point. You will find a sheet stuck into your child's reading record book indicating which multiplication table or related number fact your child needs to practise at home. This sheet will be updated each time your child successfully masters a stage so you know what to focus on next. (Please find attached useful strategies to try at home!)
- **Weekly learning of words taken from The National Curriculum's spelling list.**  
Each child has received a copy of this list with the words they already know highlighted. We ask that your child learns five of these words a week, using a range of spelling strategies. These spellings will be tested on a termly basis. (Please find attached useful strategies to try at home!)
- **Project grid homework tasks**  
These will be set the week before each half-term holiday (in October, February and May) and will directly link to the Learning Journey for the next half term. We have chosen a range of activities to capture children and parent's imagination. (Instructions and expectations will be provided on the Project Grid homework information sheet each time.) We expect children to maintain the same standards for presentation of home learning as we set in school i.e. to use their best handwriting and a sharp pencil or handwriting pen.
- **Revision**  
Year 6 children will be given additional work/revision materials in the lead up to their SATs.

## Useful Websites and Apps

Parents often ask us if we can recommend any websites or apps that will support and enhance their child's home-learning in the core subjects. Here are a few of our favourites:

### Maths

- **Primary Games** - <http://www.primarygames.co.uk/> - lots of maths content in the form of games and challenges
- **Maths Zone** - <http://www.mathszone.co.uk/> - games and activities covering mainly the KS2 curriculum
- **Primary Games Arena** - <http://www.primarygamesarena.com/Subjects/Maths> - plenty of games with a handy tick list to indicate appropriate year groups
- **Primary Homework Help** - <http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/maths/> - a range of games and investigations for different areas of maths
- **Top Marks** - <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/7-11-years/mental-maths> - plenty of games for improving mental agility
- **Crickweb** - <http://www.crickweb.co.uk/ks2numeracy.html> - resources and games on lots of different topics including word problems and statistics
- **BBC Bitesize** - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/maths/> - useful for revision, particularly for Year 6.
- **Doodle Maths** – a downloadable app (with a monthly charge). It is a multi-award-winning maths program that is proven to boost confidence and attainment in maths. It builds maths confidence in your child with a programme tailored to their strengths and weaknesses. Fully aligned to the national curriculum.

### Times Tables:

- Teaching Tables - <http://www.teachingtables.co.uk/> - various games for practising times tables
- Robin Hood Doubles - <http://www.ictgames.com/rhoodbeyond10.html> - doubling up to and above 20

### For our Mathematicians who enjoy a challenge:

<http://www.potentialplusuk.org/>

<https://nrich.maths.org/7737>

<http://www.nace.co.uk/>

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/parents/gifted\\_and\\_talented/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/parents/gifted_and_talented/)

### Spellings

**Squeebles** - Spelling Test by Squeebles is an app aimed at helping 5 to 11 year old children practise their spellings in a fun, motivating environment. It allows you to set up your own personalised spelling tests, as well as download from over 150 pre-recorded tests based on the UK national curriculum, containing over 1800 words.

### Book Recommendations

<https://www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk/>

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/>

We are often asked by parents for book recommendations. There are so many wonderful books available for children today that it is sometimes hard to know where to start! Timeless classics like the Railway Children and Charlotte's Web compete with modern masterpieces like His Dark Materials, River Boy and The Weight of Water. Children are spoilt for choice! The websites listed above will provide you with a synopsis and review of recommended books. Happy reading!

## Spelling Strategies

<b>Look, say, cover, write, check</b>	<p>This is probably the most common strategy used to learn spellings.</p> <p><b>Look:</b> first look at the whole word carefully and if there is one part of the word that is difficult, look at that part in more detail.</p> <p><b>Say:</b> say the word as you look at it, using different ways of pronouncing it if that will make it more memorable.</p> <p><b>Cover:</b> cover the word.</p> <p><b>Write:</b> write the word from memory, saying the word as you do so.</p> <p><b>Check:</b> Have you got it right? If yes, try writing it again and again! If not, start again – look, say, cover, write, check.</p>
<b>Trace, copy and replicate (and then check)</b>	<p>This is a similar learning process to 'look, say, cover, write, check' but is about developing automaticity and muscle memory.</p> <p>Write the word out on a sheet of paper ensuring that it is spelt correctly and it is large enough to trace over. Trace over the word and say it at the same time. Move next to the word you have just written and write it out as you say it. Turn the page over and write the word as you say it, and then check that you have spelt it correctly.</p> <p>If this is easy, do the same process for two different words at the same time. Once you have written all your words this way and feel confident, miss out the tracing and copying or the tracing alone and just write the words.</p>
<b>Segmentation strategy</b>	<p>The splitting of a word into its constituent phonemes in the correct order to support spelling.</p>
<b>Quick write</b>	<p>Writing the words linked to the teaching focus with speed and fluency. The aim is to write as many words as possible within a time constraint.</p> <p>Pupils can write words provided by the teacher or generate their own examples. For example, in two minutes write as many words as possible with the /i:/ phoneme.</p> <p>This can be turned into a variety of competitive games including working in teams and developing relay race approaches.</p>
<b>Drawing around the word to show Tips for learning spellings at home</b>	<p>Draw around the words making a clear distinction in size where there are ascenders and descenders. Look carefully at the shape of the word and the letters in each box. Now try to write the word making sure that you get the same shape.</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-family: monospace; font-size: 2em;">t o t a l l y</p>

<p><b>Drawing an image around the word</b></p>	<p>This strategy is all about making a word memorable. It links to meaning in order to try to make the spelling noticeable.</p>  <p>You can't use this method as your main method of learning spellings, but it might work on those that are just a little more difficult to remember.</p>
<p><b>Words without vowels</b></p>	<p>This strategy is useful where the vowel choices are the challenge in the words. Write the words without the vowels and pupils have to choose the correct grapheme to put in the space. For example, for the word <i>field</i>:</p>
<p><b>Pyramid words</b></p>	<p>This method of learning words forces you to think of each letter separately.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">p py pyr pyra pyram pyrami pyramid</p> <p>You can then reverse the process so that you end up with a diamond.</p>

## Top Tips for Learning Times Tables

By ensuring your child is confident with their times tables, you will be giving them some essential tools for success in maths. Our times tables top tips will provide some useful advice and great ideas to help you support your child in learning their times tables.

### 1. Get them familiar with multiplication concepts

The first step with multiplication is to make sure your child is familiar with what the numbers in multiplications really represent. Before they can cope with multiplication they need to be confident with sequences of numbers.

You can start when your child is quite young by practising counting in twos and threes, making number patterns and solving simple mathematical problems. Counting objects, making sets of similar objects and using blocks, LEGO or snap cubes can all help to increase your child's confidence with number bonds and multiplication facts.

### 2. Use what they already know

If your child learns how to double and half numbers this will help them to make connections between different times tables, for example the 2, 4, and 8 times tables.

$8 \times 4 = 32$  therefore  $4 \times 4 = 16$  and  $2 \times 4 = 8$

If your child already knows that  $10 \times 7$  is **70** and  $2 \times 7$  is **14**, then to find out what  $12 \times 7$  is, they can add the two answers together to get **84**.

### 3. Practise tables as a time-filler

When you're sitting at traffic lights or waiting in the doctor's surgery it is the perfect opportunity for a bit of times table practice! It's always better (for both your child and you!) to just spend a few minutes reciting or testing times tables rather than going into overdrive and spending too long practising them.

### 4. Use the right vocabulary

Make sure you are using the right language to talk about multiplication.

Take a simple multiplication calculation, such as  $3 \times 5 = 15$ . The 3 and the 5 are what we call **factors** of 15 and 15 is a **multiple** of 3 and 5.

You can also demonstrate this by looking at the whole 3 times table written out in a list. Point out that each answer is a number that is a multiple of 3.

### 5. Help them with the ones they find tricky

There are usually one or two multiplication facts in each times table that are more difficult. When you notice that your child is stumbling over the same fact each time, try to give them extra

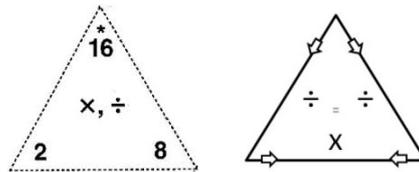
practice. You could even get your child to write the fact out in a fun way on a piece of card and then stick it somewhere prominent (like on the fridge) so that they have an extra reminder!

## 6. Use a number grid

Printing off a simple 10 x 10 number grid can be a great way to demonstrate how times tables relate to number sequences. You can get your child to colour in multiples of different numbers on different number squares so that they can clearly see the number patterns.

## 7. Divide and conquer

As well as learning the times tables, your child should also know the division facts for each times table. (For example, if 3 times 5 is 15, 15 divided by 5 is 3, and 15 divided by 3 is 5.) A triangle can help children to visualise how this works.



## 8. Make it real

The danger with too much rote learning of times tables is that children can fail to see the use of times tables in real life. Try to take opportunities to get your child to use multiplication in problem solving, for example working out quantities for scaling up a recipe, or calculating the price of more than one item of shopping.

## 9. Create a challenge

Make it fun by turning times table practice into a competition or challenge for your child, by timing them and keeping a record of their scores. You could even join in yourself and set a challenge to learn a more difficult times table, such as the 13 times table and get your child to test you at the end of the week in exchange for testing them...

## 10. Useful tricks!

We all know that the 9 times table can be done on our fingers and the 11 times tables is easy to remember! Explore other patterns and strategies with your child to help them learn their times tables. Rhymes and 'funny sayings' are really helpful when learning the tricky tables as are times tables songs which are readily available on music download sites.

**Wakey Wakey Rise and Shine, 7 x 7 is 49**

**Five, six, seven, eight helps might help them to remember 7 x 8 = 56**

**I skate and skate and hit the floor, 8 x 8 is 64**