

Homework in Year 6

What homework will I have in Year 6?

In Year 6, you will usually be given two pieces of written homework each week (generally this will be English and maths but sometimes there could be work for another subject instead of one of these). As well as this, you will usually have some spellings and times tables to learn or revise.

You will also have your reading book – and it is very important that you spend plenty of time reading. You are beginning to read really well now but that doesn't mean that you don't need to bother with reading so much. Apart from being really enjoyable when you “get into” a good book, to develop good reading skills you need to read plenty of different kinds of books. Please take this seriously.

How long should I spend on my English and maths homework?

Your English and maths homework should not usually take you more than about an hour altogether if you concentrate and work hard at it. (It's no good trying to do it while you are watching the television or a DVD etc.) If your English and maths is taking you more than about an hour and a half – and you have been trying really hard – the adult who is helping you can tell you that you have spent long enough on it and write me a little note in your Pupil Planner to explain why it is not finished. Remember – you do not have to do all your week's homework in one go, but it is not a good idea to leave it all to the last minute to begin it, in case you do find something hard.

Do I have to learn all the spellings on the sheet?

No.

Our weekly spelling sheets will usually have four lists of words. Some lists are harder than others. I will tell you the list or lists that I think you should learn and ask you to mark this on your sheet.

Some children find spelling a lot easier than others. If you find it easy to learn spellings then we will ask you to learn harder words so it is a bit of a challenge for you! We think that you should really have to learn between 5 and 10 words each week. (If we ask you to learn the words in lists 2 and 3, then it is likely that you will already know lots of these, but that there will be some that you will have to learn.)

What if the lists I have to learn are too hard or too easy?

Hopefully, someone who looks after you at home will help you with learning your spellings. It might help if they test you on the words in your list (or lists) before you start to learn them. If you already know them all (or nearly all) then they might suggest that you could learn a harder list that week (and you can be tested on that list too). If you have two lists to learn and you find that you really don't know any of them – then just learn the easiest list of the two. If this happens, ask someone at home to put a little note in your Pupil Planner and show me. The point is this: I want you to improve your spelling – so you do need to learn some – but there is no point in trying to learn too many each week because you just won't remember them for long.

What is the best way to learn my spellings?

The *Look, Cover, Write, Check!* method that we show you at school is thought to be the best way for most people. If you are not sure about this then please ask and we can talk about it again.

How much time should I spend learning my spellings?

Between three and five minutes a day should be enough if you concentrate – and some children won't need as much time as this. It is much better to do a little bit on several different days than try spend a long time the day before your test. *Little and often* usually means that you will remember them for longer.

We will usually give you your spellings on a Friday and the test will usually be on the next Thursday. If you look at your spellings at the weekend, then you will quickly find out whether you are going to need to spend a lot of time or just a little that week. (Sometimes the lists will be easier than other weeks. It is hard for us to match the difficulty precisely.)

DO NOT spend hours and hours and hours learning spellings for your tests. If it is really taking you more than ten minutes a day to learn your spellings then ask someone who looks after you at home to let me know and I will give you a different list.

If you have any questions, please ask as soon as possible. Don't leave it to the day of the test to let us know if there are problems! And don't worry! It isn't easy to get the level of difficulty exactly right for everyone at the beginning of the year – but we can always sort out any problems.