



Lower Heath

CE Primary School

Part of the **Marches** Academy Trust

Home Learning

Rationale

At Lower Heath, we believe learning at home plays an important part in a child's education. It consolidates and extends classroom teaching and supports children to develop self-discipline and independence.

However, we appreciate that with busy lives, it can be a challenge to find sufficient time to complete some formal homework tasks. In addition, it is important for children to spend time with family and friends and pursue hobbies outside of school, to develop their own interests and self-esteem.

As a result, our home learning focusses on consolidation of basic skills: essentially reading, spelling, number bonds up to 100 (i.e. knowing that $3 + 7 = 10$, so $30 + 70 = 100$ etc) and times tables (i.e. knowing that $9 \times 7 = 63$ etc) up to 12×12 .

We only expect a child to spend between 15-30 minutes each day (depending on their age) on some or all of these activities. A short, regular burst of focused, quality support with an adult will be hugely valuable to a child's progress.

Home Learning guidelines and expectations

Reading

We believe the most important home learning activity is **daily reading**. This does not have to be an onerous task; 'little and often' has a huge, positive impact. Suggested daily reading times are 5-10 minutes in Reception increasing to 15-20 minutes by year 5/6 – see further guidance below.

There is an expectation that reading at home will happen daily (5 times a week minimum).

It is important for parents/carers to read with children and to discuss books, pictures and stories, even when children are considered to be fluent readers. Children will be provided with a reading book from school, which will be at an appropriate stage for their reading level.

Reading Diaries

Children's home reading and school reading will be recorded in reading diaries. Please write the date of reading, the title of the book read and how many pages or how long your child read for. **Please do not feel you have to make any comment in the diary, unless you wish to.**

Teachers will monitor reading diaries weekly and award stickers to encourage children to engage with their home reading. If a child reads **three times in a week, they are awarded a Bronze Star**, **four times, a Silver Star** and for reading **five times or more each week, a Gold Star** will be awarded. The rewards will be stamped in their reading diaries.

In addition, a weekly award will be given to the 'Star Reader' from each class. This may be a child who has consistently read at home, one who has demonstrated their love of reading in school or perhaps a child who has shown a real improvement in their home reading. Our Star Readers will receive a certificate, bookmark and sticker in weekly celebration worship.

Spelling

Children in years 3-6 have been set up on Spelling Shed – please see your child's reading diary for all relevant log-in details. Children in years 3-6 will be provided with a list of 10 words each week to practise at home. These will be provided on paper and also as an 'assignment' on Spelling Shed.

Children in Reception – year 2 will have words or graphemes to learn. These will be sent home on paper and via Class Dojo.

There is an expectation that letter, grapheme or spelling practice will happen daily (5 times a week minimum).

Spelling tests are carried out weekly from year 1-6. The tests will be marked, and the test book returned home, to provide feedback to parents/carers. **Please ensure the books return to school for the tests each week.**

Number Bonds and Times Tables

To support children with their mathematical development, it is important they have secure mental strategies. Mental maths is taught specifically in school but will only be consolidated with additional work and practice at home.

All children have been set up on Times Tables Rockstars – please see your child’s reading diary for all relevant log-in details.

There is an expectation that counting, number bonds or times table practice will happen daily (5 times a week minimum).

Number Bonds and Times Tables tests are carried out weekly from year 1-6. The tests will be marked, and the test slips returned home, to provide feedback to parents/carers. Teachers will keep a record of attainment in these tests, so there is no need to return the test slips to school.

There is further explanation of number bonds and some useful resources to support with home learning here:

- <https://mathsnoproblem.com/en/approach/number-bonds/>
- <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/5-7-years/counting>
- Times Table Rockstars and numbots – children have their own individual accounts for these

Year 5 and 6 English and Maths workbooks

As children approach secondary school, it is necessary to prepare them for the homework expectations that will be placed on them in year 7 and beyond. As a result, UKS2 children have English and maths workbooks, and they will be asked to complete one activity from each book, each week. This will be set through Class Dojo.

The answers to the tasks are available online using the links below, allowing you to work with your child to mark them together. These workbooks will not be marked by teachers; they are for home learning only. NB the password is **teachersonly**:) Make sure you include the symbols :)

Links to the answers for the Dactyl Practice workbooks

ENGLISH

Year 3

<https://www.dactylpublishing.com/downloads/Year%203%20English%20Practice%20Questions%20Answer%20Booklet.pdf>

Year 4

<https://www.dactylpublishing.com/downloads/Year%204%20English%20Practice%20Questions%20Answer%20Booklet.pdf>

Year 5

<https://www.dactylpublishing.com/downloads/Year%205%20English%20Practice%20Questions%20Answer%20Booklet.pdf>

Year 6

<https://www.dactylpublishing.com/downloads/Year%206%20English%20Practice%20Questions%20Answer%20Booklet.pdf>

MATHS

Year 3

<https://www.dactylpublishing.com/downloads/Year%203%20Maths%20Practice%20Questions%20Answer%20Booklet.pdf>

Year 4

<https://www.dactylpublishing.com/downloads/Year%204%20Maths%20Practice%20Questions%20Answer%20Booklet.pdf>

Year 5

<https://www.dactylpublishing.com/downloads/Year%205%20Maths%20Practice%20Questions%20Answer%20Booklet.pdf>

Year 6

<https://www.dactylpublishing.com/downloads/Year%206%20Maths%20Practice%20Questions%20Answer%20Booklet.pdf>

If your child is working on objectives below their year group, they will have been given a year 3 or 4 English or maths workbook. If you are at all unsure about which answers you will need, please ask your child's class teacher.

Additional Optional Activities

At times, teachers may set projects to supplement the termly themes. These activities may be research or art based and you will have a number of weeks to complete them with your children. Unlike the reading, spelling and number work, there is not an expectation that these projects are

completed. They are put in place for families who enjoy supporting their children with the wider curriculum and with more creative activities.

Parent / School Home Learning Expectations

	HOME LEARNING ACTIVITIES	TIMING AND FREQUENCY	SCHOOL ACTIVITIES
EYFS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read schoolbook - record in reading diary • Letters and graphemes practice • Numberwork – Numbots, number recognition, counting objects, more/less than etc 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5-10 minutes daily (or at least 5 times a week) • 5-10 minutes daily • 5-10 minutes daily 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check reading diaries weekly • Class 'reward' system to encourage regular home learning • Offer support if home learning expectations are not being achieved • Ensure children are given regular opportunities to choose age-appropriate reading books from school • Class system to keep a record of what books children are reading reviewing regularly • Weekly and termly class prizes for child who reads most/has improved their reading at home • KS2 spelling and times tables tests sent home weekly • KS1 spelling and numberbonds tests sent home weekly • Support for families in how to use school systems • Guidance resources accessible on our website
KS1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read schoolbook - record in reading diary • Spelling / grapheme practice • Number bonds / times tables practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 minutes daily (or at least 5 times a week) • 5-10 minutes daily • 5-10 minutes daily 	
LKS2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read schoolbook - record in reading diary • Spelling practice • Number bonds / times tables practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10-15 minutes daily (or at least 5 times a week) • 5-10 minutes daily • 5-10 minutes daily 	
UKS2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read schoolbook - record in reading diary • Spelling practice • Times tables practice • English and Maths workbook activity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15-20 minutes daily (or at least 5 times a week) • 5-10 minutes daily • 5-10 minutes daily • Approximately 30 minutes per week 	

Please visit our website at <https://lowerheath.co.uk/parentsandpupils/parents-information/> to see a selection of resources and videos to support with home learning.

Rewards to encourage completion of home learning

All class teachers understand the value in recognising and rewarding children who are developing independence with their learning. Each class will use Class Dojo for this purpose. In addition, weekly and termly certificates are awarded to recognise consistent home learning.

Should the expected home-learning tasks not be completed on a regular basis, the class teacher will contact parents to offer support, should it be needed. If parents are finding it difficult to complete the home learning tasks, children can be given the opportunity to work during their playtimes to catch up with the missed home learning. This will be discussed with parents first.