

A Parents' Guide to Homework Survival in Years 5 and 6

Homework is set in order to provide children with an opportunity to independently reinforce skills learnt at school. Children should therefore, be able to complete homework **on their own**.

Do:

- Provide a regular time for homework (not more than 30 mins at a time)
- Provide a quiet place for homework
- Ensure that your child has all the equipment necessary to complete their homework
- Remain calm and positive throughout
- Ask your child to explain their homework task to you (this will help them to clarify the homework in their own mind, and will show you that they understand the task)
- Ask your child to clarify the task with their teacher if they do not have a clear understanding. Make sure your child has enough time to ask for help, and complete their homework task on time
- Allow your child to work independently, with regular short breaks if appropriate
- Use and guidance given by school to help with completion of homework eg 'Progression in Calculation'
- Encourage the child to re-read the homework task if they are 'stuck'. Ask them questions to clarify their understanding and the methods they will use. Remember they may use a method which is different from those you are familiar with, so teaching a new method may lead to your child becoming frustrated or confused
- Stop if the homework task takes too long or causes your child to become distressed
- Sign your child's homework diary to indicate that your child has attempted their homework
- Come back to the subject or class teacher for further help rather than getting frustrated at home
- Establish the routine of your child packing their bag the night before. This is an important step in developing good personal organisation skills
- Praise your child's efforts