



Y3/4 Home Learning Information

We have recently updated our provision for home learning and you can find our full Home Learning Policy on our website. We greatly value our partnership with parents in ensuring all pupils achieve their full potential in school and in life on the whole, so we think it is really important to provide worthwhile and meaningful home learning activities. We all need lots of practise when we are learning something new so it is important that we provide activities that will help pupils practise what they are learning in school.

Here is an overview of our provision and expectations for pupils in Years 3 and 4.

Reading - We firmly believe that 'children who read, succeed'; in our experience, pupils who are strong readers, read a lot at home and they learn quickly and well throughout the curriculum. Reading is our first priority in terms of home learning and we expect all to read regularly at home - at least 4 times per week. As part of our 'Read for a Star' scheme, we check reading journals every week. As pupils become more confident decoders and can read by themselves, we expect them to record their reflections and responses to reading in their reading journals once they have finished each book. Pupils are occasionally given comprehension exercises or asked to complete an online book review. Class teachers will provide further guidance on this, reflective of the stage of reading and year group.

Talk - We know that when children can talk confidently, their writing is much better. Therefore as a school we talk at every opportunity and we encourage parents and other family members to talk to the children more too. As part of our Big Writing strategy, every Friday or Monday, we set a weekly Big Talk Topic for all pupils. We may never write about this topic but we encourage lots of talking about it. Additionally, before Big Writing which takes place in every class on Friday mornings, pupils are provided with the context to talk about at home the evening before.

Spelling – Pupils will receive weekly spellings to practise and learn by heart. For tricky words and words from the statutory lists, the pupils will receive up to 5 spellings to learn. If necessary pupils will be given lists of key words and sounds that support their reading. A few minutes practise every day is the best way to learn these.

Grammar and handwriting – The national curriculum places high expectations for pupils' grammar development, knowing correct terms, and using Standard English and correct punctuation. Pupils in Years 3-6 are given regular grammar exercises based on aspects they are covering in class and are encouraged to practise neat, joined handwriting at the same time.

Big Maths Learn Its - 'Learn Its' are addition facts and times tables facts which pupils will gradually learn by heart throughout school to help improve their fluency in maths and give them confidence. We expect pupils to practise their set Learn Its a few minutes every day. In addition, they should practise timetables for our Super Hero Challenge.

Maths practise – generally once per week, pupils will be given an activity to practise current class work. This will most likely be an on-line activity on Mathletics, our maths learning platform, but may be a worksheet to complete or a game to play. Sometimes it is beneficial to give individual pupils additional tasks to continue practise from classwork. All of these have most impact on learning when completed on the same day as they are set and pupils can complete them at lunch time if they have commitments after school.

Topic Projects - Pupils will be set a longer term, open ended project linked to a class topic or science. The project will encourage family participation in learning and will provide ample time (e.g. 4-6 weeks) for pupils to research and complete. It is up to the pupil how deep they dive or how long they spend on their project.

Our routines

All classes give out weekly home learning activities, some on set days but some as necessary. If a piece of work needs handing in, teachers will specify when. When pupils are required to practise for a weekly test (e.g. spelling or Learn Its, normally on a Friday), there is usually at least 4-5 days (including a weekend) in between.

Set work will have always been explained and discussed in class before coming home; it may be a continuation of classwork, or an online activity already familiar to your child. We will try not to send work home that the child cannot already do and we will include a clear explanation/reminder of what is expected.

Each child has a home learning book and the majority of tasks are kept in there. We expect children to maintain the same standards for presentation of home learning activities as we set in school, i.e. to use their best handwriting and a blue or black pen.

Most tasks will not require marking. When they do, the task will be marked in the home learning book if handed in by the specified day. Not all tasks will need to be handed in; there are other ways in which we will respond or give feedback; for example, sharing results in class discussion, putting work onto a display or transferring work into class books.

Please remember that home learning is meant to be an enjoyable and worthwhile activity for all and should not be allowed to cause distress to pupils, parents or teachers! Problems should be discussed with your child's class teacher as soon as they arise.

Further information about helping your child at home will be maintained on our school website.

Useful Websites for Y3/4:

www.bbc.co.uk/guides/z3c6tfr - Dance Mat touch typing

uk.mathletics.com/ - lots of maths games and practise task that have been allocated by the teacher. Pupils' log in information is in their home learning books

Skoolbo is a great site to help children with literacy and numeracy. Children are immersed in an incredible learning world and become highly motivated by the inbuilt rewards mechanisms designed to encourage healthy use and to maximise learning.

Your child has been provided with an account that grants full free use of the program both at home and school. As a parent you are able to view your child's results via the **Parent Dashboard**. Children are not able to communicate on Skoolbo and there is no possibility of unsafe interactions.

How to get going at home:

1. Visit <http://dashboard.skoolbo.co.uk/parent/register> and register as a parent in Skoolbo.
2. Once you log in with your account at <http://dashboard.skoolbo.co.uk/> you can link it with your child's account. Your child has been given a user name and password but you get it again from the class teacher.
3. Then visit <http://skoolbo.co.uk/downloads> and download the software. Skoolbo is available on tablets (iPads and Androids), computers (PCs and Macs) and also through the Internet browser.
4. Open the software and select the **Parents** option, log in with your parent account, your child's account will appear on the screen as an avatar. Just click on it, select your child's password and they will be ready to play.