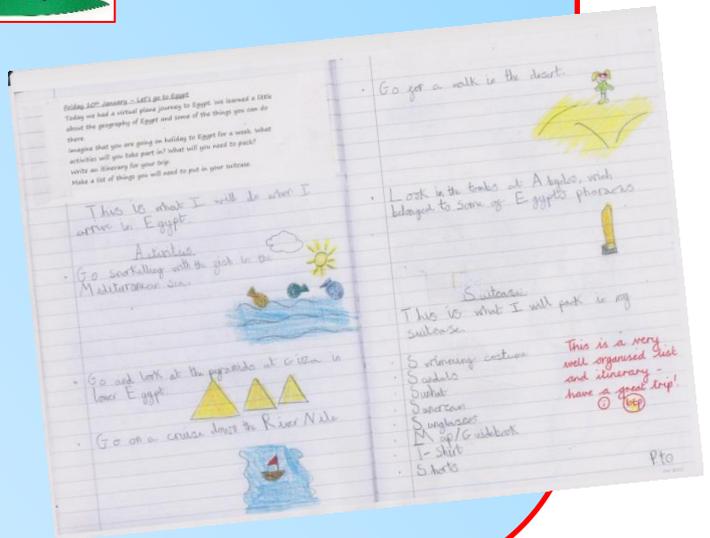


# Worsthorne Primary School



# Helping with Homework

## **Helping your child to learn at home**

Hello. I am a child at Worsthorne Primary School and I have been asked to explain ways in which you can help me with my Home Learning.

My teachers think that it is important for me to continue my learning at home, and for you to help me out with it if you can. The teachers have lots of good reasons for thinking this, which you can find in our school's Home Learning Policy. Here you will find my explanation about Home Learning, which I hope will help you to help me!

### **What is Home Learning?**

Home Learning is set in every class, every week. Usually it is linked to the theme in the class at the time. Themes could be superheroes, jungles, space, chocolate, World War Two, to name a few, but could be anything that the teacher thinks will interest us. My teacher will set me tasks to complete and will always let you know when they need to be completed by. I will have been given a Home Learning book in which to complete the tasks set for me. Sometimes, however, I will be asked to design or make something that doesn't fit in a book, like a model of the solar system, a lighthouse or even a pizza! The possibilities are endless.

### **Why is it important?**

Our teachers firmly believe that this kind of homework helps me to be interested in school – and I love it when you show an interest in what I am learning. The teachers will encourage me to be as creative as possible with my Home Learning but they want you to know that it is not a competition. Everyone's work is valued equally. They certainly don't want you to go out and spend lots of money! All they ask is that you spend a little time with me, talking about what we are doing together.

As well as the topic work, I will be set home learning that will help me to improve basic skills like reading and times tables. This is very important as I will use these skills all the time and so a little bit every night is the best way to support me. Below you will find some ideas for how to go about helping me practice these basic skills.

### **Helping me when I am writing**

When I am writing I will need it to be quiet to help me think clearly. Always encourage me to talk about what I am going to write – don't let me launch into it without doing the thinking first! Ask me to say each sentence out loud to you, or to myself if I am able to. This will help me to check if my sentence makes sense and I might be able to hear a way to improve it. When I have said it aloud, I can write it down. Check that I have used the right punctuation then ask me to read the sentence to make sure it says what I think it does. Every now and then, if I am writing a longer piece, ask me to read the whole lot through to myself. This will help me to check if it flows.

Encourage me to spell words using what I know about spelling. My spelling may not always be perfect, especially if I am young or if the word is new to me. If the word is a common one that I will use all the time, try to make sure I spell it correctly and bring me back to it if I don't. Otherwise, ask me to sound out the word and write down each sound at a time, or help me to find the chunks or syllables in the word so that I can tackle each one. If you think the spelling is holding me up, help me out with it and just make a note when I have finished so that my teacher knows that you have helped me.

### **Helping me with Reading**

Please listen to me read every night for about ten minutes – even if I am in Year Six. Try to do this in a quiet place so that I can concentrate. If we are in the lounge, please turn off the television. Talk to me about what I am reading and encourage me to have a go at words I find tricky. To work out tricky words I could:

- Sound it out and try blending the sounds together
- Working out what each chunk or syllable says and putting it all together
- Reading from the beginning of the sentence again
- Missing out the word and reading the rest of the sentence. What word would fit and make sense?
- Ask me questions about what we have been reading. Not too many though or you'll spoil the fun! I should be able to tell you what my reading targets are so that you can ask questions that will help me to achieve those targets.

### **Helping me to learn my times tables**

The best way to learn times tables is to chant them or sing them together. This helps the patterns to stick in my head. Try a bit of chanting and singing first to get me used to the patterns. Then mix up the order and ask me questions in different ways. For example  $4 \times 3$  could be 'four times three' or 'three lots of four'. Try asking me the questions using real life scenarios, such as 'If four people had three apples each, how many apples would there be altogether?'. Here are some other ideas:

- Match the pairs – write out the questions and answers on separate pieces of paper. Turn them all face down. Turn over two pieces at a time and try to find a matching pair. You could try this at first by just lying all the pieces of paper face up and matching the pairs.
- Hide and seek – hide the answers around the room. Read out one question to me then give me a set amount of time to find the answer.
- Speed it up! – ask me to write down the times table I am working on as fast as I can. Time me and note how long it took. Tomorrow challenge me to beat my time.

## **Maths – it's not the same as in your day!**

On our school website you will find a Calculations Policy. This explains how we do mathematical calculations in our school because it probably isn't the same way that you did it when you were at school. You might find this policy useful if you are helping me with maths.

## **What to do if I am stuck**

Finally, if I am really stuck with my home learning and I have tried hard, you can let me stop. My teacher thinks that half an hour is enough to be trying hard. None of our teachers want home learning to upset me – or you! If this happens, please let my teacher know by writing a little note, telephoning school or popping in to explain. If my teacher knows this has happened, then I will get a bit of extra help in school. That's teamwork!

I hope that you find this explanation useful but remember, you can always talk to my teacher or to Mrs Young if you are worried about anything, or if there is something that you don't understand. They are all very friendly and would be happy to help.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. Happy home learning!