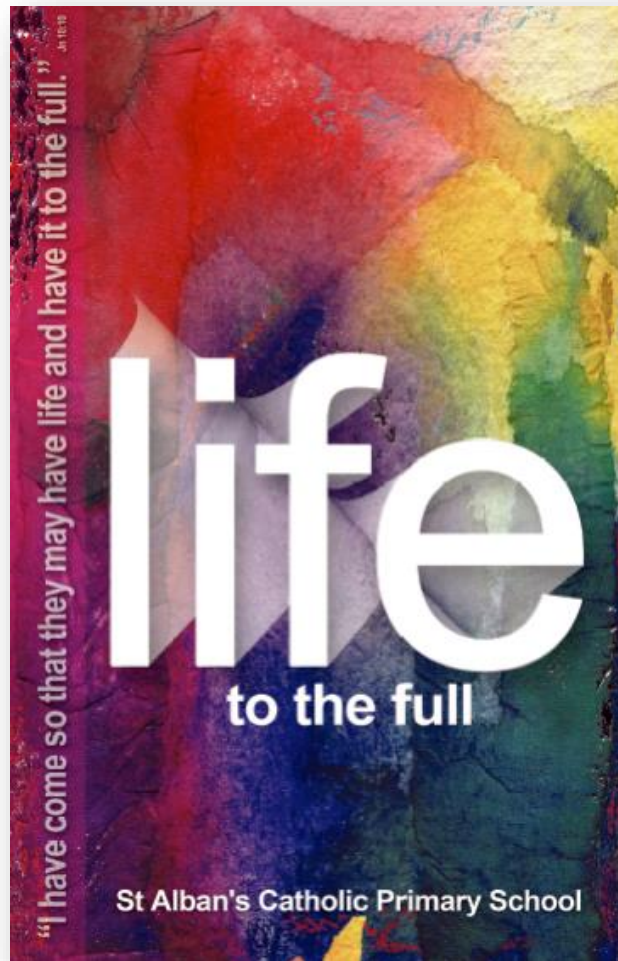


St Alban's Catholic Primary School



Home Learning Policy 2023



Learning at home is an essential part of a child's education. A child is in school for around six and a half hours a day, and learning does not stop when a child leaves the school premises. Regular Home Learning is important as it gives children the opportunity to consolidate skills that they have learnt at school, as well as developing and improving important life skills. Children develop confidence and independence with their learning and these skills will support them throughout their time at school and into adult life.

Home Learning is defined as 'out of school tasks set for children as an extension of their learning'. Home Learning is aimed to promote a love of learning and discovery.

Purpose

- To promote a love of learning and discovery for its own sake.
- To enhance individual creativity and independent thinking.
- To embed, enrich and complement the school curriculum by extending it beyond the classroom environment.
- To practise and consolidate basic skills and knowledge, especially in number work, reading and spelling.
- To encourage children to develop the responsibility, confidence and self-discipline needed to become life-long learners.
- To provide opportunities for parents, children and the school to work together in partnership.
- To promote opportunities for learning across our wider community.

Practice

- Home Learning should enhance family life and not impact negatively upon it.
- Children will be expected to apply the same high standards to Home Learning as they would to class work.
- The setting of Home Learning for all children will be according to the Home Learning timetable. The frequency and length of the tasks will vary according to the year group of the child. Children will be set weekly home learning and a variety of tasks to be completed over a period of time.
- All children across the school will be reading at home regularly. It is important to encourage children to read for pleasure.
- Home Learning can consist of: daily reading, regular spelling and maths activities (such as learning number bonds and times tables). It may also include an extension of work begun in school, additional research, projects, collecting information, investigations and online learning. At certain times of the year, it may include learning words and songs for an event, such as a class Celebration of the Word, Nativity Play, summer production.
- Home Learning can give parents the opportunity to work collaboratively with their child on a task, but mainly it needs to be the child's, not the parent's, work.

- Home Learning is monitored. If a child **regularly** fails to return Home Learning, discussions will be held with the child's parents to ascertain the reasons and what can be done to support the child in the completion of the Home Learning tasks. On occasions, the completion of a Home Learning task will not be possible due to other commitments; this is recognised and accepted. If this is the case, the class teacher should be informed to ensure this is understood.
- Home Learning in the form of worksheets, work books or text books will not be provided for absent children who are out of school for a family holiday or for periods of sickness. If a child wishes to undertake additional work, we will encourage them to do personal research on the topics covered within the class.

Responsibilities

- Children are responsible for collecting, completing and returning their Home Learning on time.
- Parents are responsible for ensuring that their children have completed their Home Learning satisfactorily and to the required standard.
- When Home Learning is to be completed over a number of weeks, it is important for children to do little bits regularly so as to avoid a rush at the end and the additional stress that this causes.
- Teachers are responsible for setting Home Learning on a regular basis in accordance with the Home Learning timetable.

Communication

- Home Learning is explained to the children and, where appropriate, additional information will be given to the parents including information on tasks, duration and deadlines.
- If your child has either found a task too easy, or too difficult, please let your child's class teacher know.
- If you need to clarify anything regarding Home Learning, your child's class teacher will be happy to help.

Reading at home

Reading with your child is vital. It is the single most important thing parents can do to help their child in their education. Children whose parents read with them in the first year of school benefit throughout their primary education and still feel the benefit of this throughout secondary school. It is important that parents read regularly and frequently with their child and that they talk together about what they have read. **It is best to read little and often.**

Reading at home must become more than mere '*homework*'. We want to encourage a love of reading. It is not just about saying the words on a page. Books can open up new worlds and

present new ideas for you and your child to discuss. It is so important to talk about what has been read, lingering over it for as long as wanted or needed.

All children enjoy being read to (even in Year 6!). It means that they can enjoy content that they can't necessarily access independently. It is important to continue listening to your child read out loud, even when they are a confident reader. This means that they continue to strengthen their comprehension skills, they can be encouraged to read with expression and they have the opportunity to discuss what they have read with others.

What activities does Home Learning consist of?

Foundation Stage

Activities to support reading

- Phonics activity to share sounds being learnt in school.
- Red and Green Words, to practise tricky words and high frequency words.

Reading

Reading activities will be given depending on the child's ability. These will include reading scheme books and library books. It is expected that a child should be read to or read with every day irrespective of age or reading ability.

Key Stage 1

Activities to support reading

- Phonics activity to share sounds being learnt in school.
- Red and Green Words, to practise tricky words and high frequency words.

Reading

Reading activities will be given depending on the child's ability. These may include reading scheme books, library books, or class group readers. It is expected that a child should be read to or read with every day irrespective of age or reading ability.

Spelling

National Curriculum word lists are included on the curriculum booklets posted on the website at the start of each term. Spelling tests have limited impact on a child's learning, except for assessment purposes, whereas learning the spelling rules is essential.

Maths

Children benefit from consolidation of number bonds to 10 and 20 and multiplication facts for the 2, 5 and 10 times tables. If they become confident with these tables, they can practice the division facts for these tables. When children are confident with these, they can then go on to the 3 and 4 times tables.

Subject/topic-based homework

Subject/topic-based homework may be given to children to support the curriculum. For example, they could be asked to go on a nature walk in order to describe seasonal changes or asked to find out a little more about the topic they are learning about in class.

Key Stage 2

Spelling

Spelling activities are given and where necessary linked to handwriting practice. Spelling tests have limited impact on a child's learning, except for assessment purposes, whereas learning the spelling rules is essential.

Reading

Reading activities will be given depending on the child's ability. This may include reading scheme book, library books, or class group readers.

It is expected that a child should be read to or read with every day irrespective of age or reading ability.

Maths

Lower Key Stage 2: By the end of Year 4, children are expected to know all multiplication and division facts for times tables to 12x12. Children work on these in school but also need to be practicing times tables at home. There are many apps and websites aimed at encouraging times table fluency.

It is important to continue to practice times tables even when children are confident with them. Interactive (online) or paper-based maths activities

Upper Key Stage 2: Any child who is not confident with the multiplication and division facts for all tables to 12x12 should be practicing them at home as a priority. Children can also consolidate their learning in school through suggestions from the class teacher. Interactive (online) or paper-based maths activities.

Parent Support

When you cut it for me, write for me, open it for me, set it up for me, draw it for me, find it for me, tie my laces for me, **do my homework for me....** all I learn is that you are better than me.”

Please support your child with their home learning but do not do it for them.

A desire to learn is a life skill which we hope to engender within our pupils. This cannot be achieved without parental support – thank you.