

How can I help my child with maths and number work?



You can:

- Encourage the correct formation of numbers and the proper layout and presentation of sums.
- Check your child's work and if you find a mistake, talk about what they did.
- Let your child work out the answer.
- Help to memorise number bonds and tables.
- Use everyday situations to apply skills they have learned e.g. Telling the time, reading timetables, weighing out ingredients, sharing out items etc
- Play number games and puzzles together.
- Make use of maths and number websites.



How can I help my child with topic work?

Talking to your child about the topic being studied will encourage them to discuss what they knew before starting the topic and what they are learning. It is of great benefit if further research can be done at home. This could be from books, newspapers, magazines, news programmes on TV or the radio. If there is computer access at home, the internet can be a great source of information (with parental guidance). It is important that children learn to 'use' the information they find rather than simply copy it. Libraries are another excellent source of information and there may well be computer access there too.

What happens if my child has not completed homework or has forgotten to take it to school?



It is very important that from the start of primary school you encourage your child to pack their own schoolbag for the next day to ensure that they have everything they need. We are trying to encourage our children to be independent learners and this is another way in which we can help.

In the infant classes there is a daily homework diary for you to sign on completion of work. In the upper school the children have homework diaries which they fill in at school. It is helpful to discuss the entries and help your child to complete tasks on time.

If for any reason your child cannot complete the task on time, please write a short note to the teacher to explain this and say when the work will be done.

If the class teacher finds work not completed, a letter may be sent to you so that the task may be done and handed in to the teacher on an agreed date.

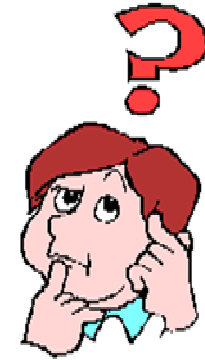
If I need more information or advice, who can I speak to?



The Head Teacher and the Depute Head Teacher are both available to speak to you about any concerns you have regarding your child's homework. Please telephone the school office for an appointment.



Castlehill—a community of learners



Frequently asked questions about....

Home Learning

"Learning happens wherever children are; and for the largest part of their developing years children are within their homes and communities."



Why does my child get homework if s/he has worked hard at school all day?

Homework gives children the opportunity to revise and consolidate skills learned in class and to apply skills of investigation and research. In Castlehill Primary homework is valuable, varied, interesting and enjoyable. It is provided at every stage with the amount increasing as children progress through school. It should be looked on as part of a child's learning experience alongside opportunities to pursue other interests e.g. piano lessons, swimming, sports etc.

How can I help my child with homework?



Establishing a good routine will help your child to develop a positive approach to their homework. This can be done by:

- Setting a regular time when homework has to be done.
- Providing a quiet, relaxed atmosphere with no distractions e.g. TV switched off
- Checking your child's homework diary or school-bag to see what homework has been set by the class teacher.
- Encouraging an acceptable standard of presentation.
- Signing the homework jotter/diary to show that you feel your child has made a reasonable effort to complete the work.
- Writing a note to the class teacher if you feel your child is experiencing a particular difficulty.



How long should homework take to complete?

The time taken to complete homework tasks will vary from child to child according to their development. Some tasks may be intended to be completed quickly whereas other tasks will require more time and/or research. It is anticipated that as children progress through school, homework will take longer. Many teachers will issue the tasks weekly to allow the children to fit them around their other activities.

What type of homework should I expect?



Homework will vary from class to class and stage to stage, depending on the needs of the children. However, here is a list of activities that your child may be given during their time at primary school. Every child will not receive all of these on a weekly basis.

- Spelling - words to learn/practice/use in sentences
- Reading - a home reading book or using a library book.
- Numeracy - an activity which consolidates or practices a concept taught in class.
- Topic - research or project work
- Presentation - preparing for a personal talk
- Shared learning challenges - these are designed to encourage children and parents to work together. They may be related to a topic or a specific curricular area. Children can select which ones they would like to complete over the course of the term.



How can I help my child with reading?

Here are some simple suggestions for use when sharing stories/ texts with your child:

- Talk about the front cover - title, author, illustrator
- Talk about the blurb and/or pictures to predict what the story might be about
- Listen to them read, encouraging fluency & expression
- Encourage them to use different strategies for words they do not know.
- Sign and complete the reading record (if appropriate)
- Share enjoyment of reading by modelling your enjoyment of books you like.
- Share and encourage a wide variety of texts including newspapers and magazine articles.

How can I help my child with spelling?



When learning new words children can use the method we teach in school:

Look at the word
Cover the word
Write the word
Check the word

When practising their new words the children can use a variety of 'active strategies' which are good for different learning styles e.g Use pasta/straws/ Lego to make your words, see how many times you can write each word in 1 minute etc. When writing in school children are encouraged to 'have a go' at words they do not know using the phonics rules and spelling patterns they already know.