

Play games (not on the computer)



Spend some time with your child playing board games. This is invaluable, not only will it teach your child social skills, such as sharing and turn taking but it will also help with learning strategies for problem solving.

Chatting



Always talk to your child about their school day. Don't let them get away with answers such as, "it was ok!" Be specific with your questions, eg. "What did you do in maths today?" Being able to hold a conversation and talk at length about a particular topic, is often what separates our able children from those who struggle.

Speaking another language



If you can speak a language other than English, please teach your child to speak in that language too. Being able to converse in more than one language is an impressive skill. (If they can read or write in a second language, even better!).

Allowing your child to explore the world through first hand experience.

For example watching wildlife in the garden or local park or woodland area.

Visiting local places of historical interest.

For instance, Downe House is just 'down the road'!

Teaching your children the skills you have, examples would be sewing, football, fishing, dancing and many more.

Children in year 6

In year six, our approach is a little different. The reason for the difference is not only because the children will be moving on to secondary school, but also because the children need to work towards their Standard Assessment Tasks (SATs) at the end of the year.

Every parent will be encouraged to buy two work books, one for English (punctuation and Grammar) and one for Maths. Children will then work at home from these work books. The focus of this work will be guided by the teacher.

If you have any concerns regarding homework, please come and speak to us . Your class teacher is the first "port of call", but Mrs Shute is more than willing to discuss any concerns you have or any ideas you want to share.



Homework Advice Sheet





There is no benefit for a child if they:

1. Sit alone at a table, answering or trying to answer questions from a work sheet.
2. Print off pages from the internet, which are not accessible to the child's level of reading.
3. Hand in work which has been heavily supported by someone else.

If you have any concerns regarding your child's progress, please see your child's teacher or phase leader.

In special cases, see Mrs Aves regarding children with SEN, or Mrs Keminsky for children who are EAL.



How can you help your child at home?



Reading:

It doesn't matter if your child is in a Reception Class or in Year 6, reading daily is very important. Reading affects all aspects of education and if your child cannot read, there is a good chance that they will find everything at school difficult.

What can you do?

- Make sure that your child has an appropriate book for their reading level. The class teacher will help you with this.
- Share a book and read with your child. Even the oldest children enjoy listening to a story. Discuss the story as you go along, predict what you think will happen etc.

Spelling:



Often the class teacher will send spellings home. Please practise these with your child as often as possible. It is hard for a child to learn spellings alone, they will be more successful if you look at the words together.

Handwriting:



You can help your child by practising handwriting twice a week, until they are fluent. Your class teacher will give you a sheet to help you form the letters in the school style.

Maths:



Knowing the basics in maths is important; without this knowledge a child cannot succeed in maths. You can help by practising the following:

- Reading and writing numbers (Older children should be able to read and write numbers in the millions!).
- Counting.
- Number bonds to 10, 20 and 100. (eg. $3+7=10$ $2+8=10$ etc).
- Naming shapes.
- Times tables-have a set of tables available for your child to learn.
- Counting money.
- Telling the time.
- Doubling and halving.

Ten minutes on one of these a night will really help your child. If you are stuck as to how to phrase the questions please ask your class teacher.

Topic Work:

On occasions your child will be asked to research a class topic. You can help your child by sitting with them, as they carry out research using books and the internet (Please make sure that he/she does not just print off pages from internet sites).

