



Chalkwell Hall Infant School

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Healthy School



Friday 19th September 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope your child is settling well into Year 1! We would like to outline the expectations for homework, which are designed to support your child's learning in manageable, regular bursts. Here's what to expect:

Reading:

- We encourage children to regularly read their coloured level book (preferably 3 times to build pace and fluency), which children have the opportunity to change every day at school. In addition, they are welcome to borrow books from our class libraries to share at home. Listening to adults read is equally important, so don't forget those bedtime stories!
- Children can also access **Oxford Owl** to select online books that match their reading level (up to and including Grey). This is a useful tool for checking understanding and comprehension. (Log-in details can be found in the back of your child's yellow communication book).

Reading/Spelling Red Words:

- Red words are those that cannot be sounded out using phonics; they must be memorised to read and to spell correctly. A full list of 169 red words (13 sets) are attached to this ping message. Children should be able to read and spell these by the end of Key Stage 1 (Year 2).
- In class, children will be regularly assessed, and new sets of words will be sent home for reading practice. We will not send individual weekly spellings, as spelling is practised during school lessons and assessed termly. However, please help your child practise spelling the red words they can already read and spotting them within their colour level book.
- Once your child can read all 169 red words, they will begin a comprehension-based task book called **VIPERS**, which will be explained to them in class and has a helpful guide in the front cover.

Phonics:

- Every Friday, children will receive a short phonics task to reinforce the 'special friend' (sound) learnt that week. They will be expected to use 'sound buttons' to identify sounds in both real and alien (pseudo) words.

- A short video with the answers will be posted on Facebook each week to support this task.
- The phonics homework does not need to be returned to school, but can be kept at home to revisit throughout the year.

Maths:

- A maths sheet will be sent home every Friday, focusing on key skills. This is on the back of the phonics homework. Please also encourage the practice of rapid recall and mental maths skills, which are important for their development.
- These maths sheets do not need to be returned to school.

Purple Mash:

- Purple Mash is available as an extra resource for practising key skills and playing educational games. Weekly maths activities will be set on Purple Mash, though these will not be marked by the teacher. (Log-in details are in the yellow communication book too).

We greatly appreciate your support in helping your child with their homework. Short, regular practise sessions are the most effective way to help commit learning to long-term memory, and revisiting previously learned topics is key to this process.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding homework, please don't hesitate to contact me (danielle.maynard@chalkwellhallinfants.co.uk) or your child's class teacher.

Kind regards,

Mrs. Maynard and the Year 1 Team