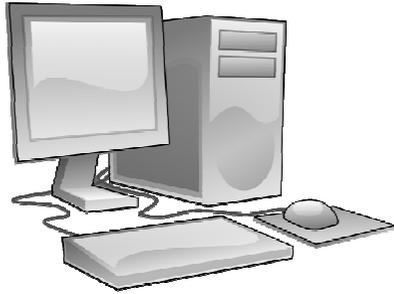


## USEFUL WEBSITES



There are lots of useful websites that will help your children with homework and basic skills in Literacy and Maths.

BBC KS2 Bitesize (the new name for revisewise) is excellent: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/ks2bitesize/>

All pupils also have an education city login paid for by the school: <http://www.educationcity.com/>



If you are lucky enough to own a tablet type computer such as an I-Pad there are loads of great apps for practicing learning, particularly Maths skills. Many of them are free or really cheap!

## Getting your child to do their homework

Some children will go through a stage of not wanting to do their homework, and for some it can be an uphill struggle all the time. This is perfectly normal and parents should not despair if this happens.

There are a number of things that you can do to help your child to feel better about homework.

- 1) Talk about it: This is the most important thing. Your attitude to homework as a parent 'rubs off' on your child. Try to stay calm and remain positive about doing the work.
- 2) Prioritise: Are some bits of homework more important than others? Concentrate on Maths and English and get those done first.
- 3) Do a bit at a time: Sometimes just making a start can help children to realise they can do their homework. Try suggesting that you start the work and then have a break. Go back to it later and finish it with them.
- 4) Get help: You can always ask if you don't understand what to do. Maybe a friend or relative can help, or you can always ask your child's class teacher for help. If you need help encouraging your child, staff in school can help with that too.
- 5) Rewards and praise: Make sure your child knows you are proud of them for the effort they put into their work. Maybe you can have a sticker chart for completing homework that might lead to a small treat if they collect a certain number of stickers.

# DEVONSHIRE JUNIOR ACADEMY



# HOMEWORK

A guide for parents

## WHY IS HOMEWORK IMPORTANT?

**Homework is a chance for your child to show that they can work independently, practise the skills they are learning at school and develop their own areas of interest. It is very important that these skills are developed so that they can get the most out of their learning.**

### How often it is set?

English, maths and spellings are set in all years on a weekly basis. Years 5 and 6 will have homework more frequently, particularly in Year 6 in the lead up to external examinations.

Every half term the children will also be set a maths or science 'learning log challenge'. This is an open-ended activity where children are encouraged to develop their independent learning skills by investigating a specific topic. Children may choose how to present their work over two pages of their purple learning log book– the more creative the better!

### Year 5 and 6: The Homework Diary

In Years 5 and 6 your child will be developing their independence. They will be taught to organise their own diary, writing down their homework and adding any other notes that will help them. It is still important for you to see your child's diary so that you know what homework they have and to ensure it is being managed well by your child. **Please sign the diary every week.**

### Parent Impact Sessions

Parent impact sessions in reading, writing and maths may involve working with your child at home over several weeks. Research has shown that this has a significant impact on your child's learning. There will be an opportunity to attend one session every term.

## DOING EXTRA HOMEWORK

If you would like to do extra activities with your child to support their work in school there are all sorts of interesting ways you can do this.

Cooking is a great way to practice practical Maths skills. Follow a recipe and talk about the measuring you are doing.

Keeping a diary is a good way to practice writing skills. If you talk with your child about what they are going to write first it will really help them to get their ideas down on paper. You can make it fun by adding drawings, tickets from places they have been, postcards or anything else you can think of.

Doing maths when you are out and about with your child is really useful. It helps them to see maths as something that has a practical use, rather than something that is just for school. Shopping is an ideal chance, just adding up two or three things in their head is great practice. There are lots of other ways you can practice maths skills. Talking about a journey you are going on, working out times for trains or buses, calculating how long the journey will take for example. You can do counting and calculating with just about anything you see. Why not try working out how many pints of milk are in a section at the supermarket? Estimate how many four pint containers there are and then times by four.

Think about taking your child to the library. Membership is free and they will have a range of books suitable for children of all ages to borrow. Any sort of reading at home will improve children's skills. Comics, newspapers, information books and magazines are all fine. Remember to talk to the children about what they have read.

Children could make up stories to tell younger children in the family. They can draw a 'story map' to help them remember the sequence of the story.

## HOMEWORK CLUBS

### Clubs and times

Children who need extra help with their homework can attend one of the clubs in school.

There is a homework club in the library from 3:20 to 4:15 where children can get help and advice with their homework as well as sit in a quiet atmosphere to complete their work. Parents can book their children each week in by contacting the school office. Children must be collected promptly at 4:15.

The days for this club are:

Monday Year 5

Tuesday Year 6

Wednesday Year 3

Thursday Year 4

The Learning Mentors also run a homework club in the computer suite on Tuesdays for any year group. Parents need to stay with their children for this club. It's a good opportunity to help your child and get advice about homework.

Does anyone else do homework with your child? Why not ask in school for extra copies of this leaflet to give to them?