

What you, at home, can do to improve your child's reading.

- Have books on display in your home. Encourage your child to look after them and show they are valued.
- Let your child see you reading and enjoying books and other reading material.
- Ask your child about his/her recent reading to show you are interested.
- Set aside some time regularly (preferably daily) to look at your child's reading book, talk about it and read from it together, but do avoid making reading time a chore, and do not force it.
- Read together in a comfortable place without distractions.
- Read aloud to your child to motivate him/her to read more advanced books.
- Visit the local library with your child and look for books which will appeal to your child's interests.
- Encourage the use of dictionaries and encyclopaedias when appropriate.
- Invite your child to read instructions and recipes when you see them. Encourage writing at home too, such as list making when needed.
- Draw attention to words when you are out and about, such as signs and directions.
- Encourage your child to read alone also, from books, comics and magazines, but do not force this.
- Consider buying books as presents and choose ones which appeal to your child's interests.

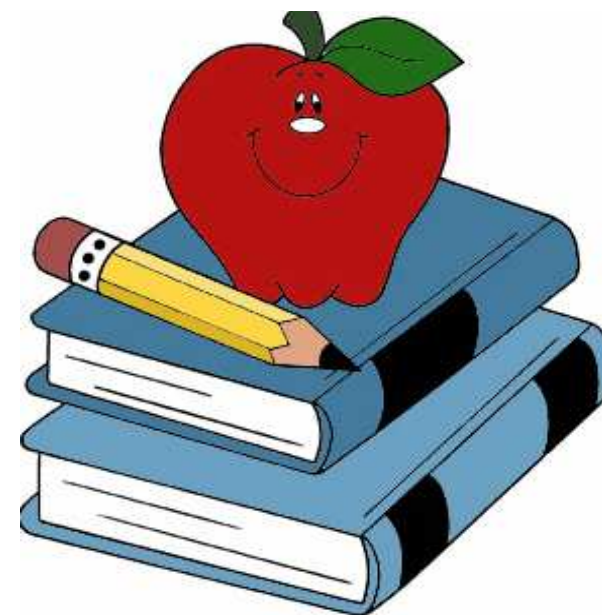
Useful websites

www.bbc.co.uk/schools
www.mathszone.co.uk
www.primarygames.com
www.topmarks.co.uk
www.crickweb.co.uk
www.topicbox.co.uk
www.primaryresources.co.uk
www.yahookids.com
www.yourchildlearns.com/geography



HOMework BOOKLET

YEAR 5



St. Anne's School Madrid
20010-2011

INTRODUCTION

The aim of this booklet is to explain the value of homework and to help make the completion of assignments an enjoyable experience and not a tedious task “to be squashed” into a spare moment during the evening.

Why do we give homework?

We assign homework for many reasons. Homework can help students to:

- review and practise what they’ve covered in class;
- get ready for the next day’s class;
- learn to use resources, such as libraries, reference materials and computer Web sites to find information about subjects;
- explore subjects more fully than classroom time permits;
- extend learning by applying skills they already have to new situations
- integrate their learning by applying many different skills to a single task, such as book reports or science projects.

Homework also can help students to develop good study habits and positive attitudes. It can:

- teach them to work independently; and
- encourage self-discipline and responsibility (assignments)
- provide some children with their first chance to manage time and to meet deadlines.

In addition, homework can help create greater understanding between families and teachers and provide opportunities for increased communication. Monitoring homework keeps you informed about what your child is learning and about the policies and programs of the teacher and the school.



Spellings and reading

Spellings are given on a weekly basis and we find it most useful to use the La Sa Ca Wa C method Look and Say and Cover and Write and Check.

The reading workbooks are given, generally, on a weekly basis.

The texts and workbook pages your child has to read are written on a post it and stuck to the front of the workbook. They usually have 4 or 5 days to complete the work and the day for handing in will be written in their homework diary.

Maths

Maths should not be treated as a subject in isolation. We use maths in every walk of life. Help to develop your child's mental agility. While out shopping ask your child to estimate how many

oranges in a kilo, add up the cost of various items in your shopping basket; how much change will they get after buying their Mc Donald's meal; how much will it cost for the family to go to the cinema and buy popcorn? In other words involve your child in day to day calculations



Television and computer

Once you and your child have worked out a homework schedule, take time to discuss how much TV and what programmes they can watch. It's worth noting that television can be a learning tool. Look for programmes on history or science or dramatizations of children's literature. When you can, watch shows with your child, discuss them and encourage follow-up activities such as reading or a trip to the museum. Likewise, limit the amount of time your child spends playing video games. As with TV programmes, be aware of the games they like to play and discuss their choices with them.



Does homework help children learn?

We believe that homework helps your child do better in school. We give assignments that have a specific purpose. They come with clear instructions and we hope that the assignments help to develop your child's knowledge and skills.

What is the right amount of homework?

The right amount of homework in year 5 is from 30 – 60 minutes daily.

This can obviously vary from child to child and from task to task. Some children need to complete unfinished class work before beginning the specific homework assignment. Reading at home is especially important for children and reading assignments might add to the daily amount recommended.

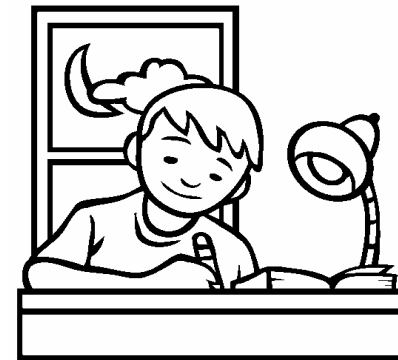
A general guideline is:

- Maths & Literacy: 15-20 minutes daily
- Spanish: 15-20 minutes daily
- Other areas: 15-20 minutes weekly



Computers are a great learning and homework tool. Your child can use their computer not only for writing reports and for getting information through Internet resource sites, but for "talking" with classmates about assignments. We have 2 computer sessions per week and your child will be learning many new skills throughout the year. It is important that they can put these skills into practice at home and that you show

interest in their learning. A list of useful websites is also included at the end of the booklet. These are excellent to reinforce class work and are fun! You can even play with your child!



General homework tips:

- Make sure your child has a quiet, well-lit place to do homework. Avoid having your child do homework in places with other distractions, such as people coming and going.
- Turn off the television and discourage your child from making and receiving social telephone calls during homework time. (A call to a classmate about an assignment, however, may be helpful)
- Make sure the materials your child needs, such as paper, pencils and a dictionary are available. Ask your child if special materials will be needed for some projects and get them in advance. They should have glue, coloured pencils, a ruler and an atlas and they should try to keep the items together in one place.
- Help your child with time management. Establish a set time each day for doing homework. Don't let your child leave homework until just before bedtime. Think about using a weekend for bigger projects.



- Be positive about homework. Tell your child how important school is. The attitude you express about homework will be the attitude your child acquires.
- Help your child figure out what is hard homework and what is easy homework. Have your child do the hard work first. This will mean he will be most alert when facing the biggest challenges. Easy material will seem to go fast when fatigue begins to set in.
- Watch your child for signs of failure or frustration. Let your child take a short break if she/he is having trouble keeping his/her mind on an assignment.
- Reward progress in homework. Be positive and encouraging. If your child has been successful in homework completion and is working hard, celebrate that success occasionally with a special event (e.g., pizza, a walk, a trip to the park) to reinforce the positive effort.
- Your child's outside activities, such as sports or music lessons, may mean that you need a flexible homework schedule.. They must realise, however, that homework is a high priority.