



Colby School Homework Policy

At Colby School, we encourage children to develop a love of learning and to follow our ethos of “Everyone Learns, Everyone Leads and Everyone Matters.” We do this by providing children with stimulating and fun learning experiences at school, which we hope will inspire them to continue learning at home. We believe family life plays a vital part in a child’s education and that having fun with your family should be valued, appreciated and cherished.

We have **no formal homework** – we encourage children to want to learn outside school and provide them with lots of ideas for how they can do this. We have an expectation that children will read at home and provide children and families with guidance about this, as detailed below:

Why you should read with your child every day

We want to encourage and foster a love of reading in the children at our school. As parents, we know that you want the very best for your children and already appreciate that learning to read is key to accessing the curriculum at school and the wider world. However, with increasingly busy lives it may seem that hearing a child read at the end of a tiring day can feel like just another job to do. We hope we can remind everyone of the importance of reading with children, not just as a mechanical process but as an enjoyable activity for you to share. You reading to your child is equally as important as them listening to you.

Here are some reasons why you should read with your child every day:

1. Reading is fun! Sharing a story, or a non-fiction book, whether it is read by an adult or by a child can give you the opportunity to share funny moments, or wonder at the world and beyond.
2. The value of a bedtime story cannot be over-estimated. It can be a quiet, settling time and gives your child the opportunity to listen to story language and allow their imagination to paint pictures.
3. Children absorb language structure and extend their vocabulary.
4. Children are able to think more logically and express their own thoughts and ideas more clearly.
5. Attention and concentration span is improved which has an impact on all learning.

It is really useful to spend a few moments discussing a book with your child. You can find out how much they have enjoyed it, how well they understood it and whether they have any questions about it.

Some useful questions to ask your child about the book they have shared - choose just one or two to discuss.

1. Who are the main characters?
2. What do you think will happen next?
3. How do you think that character feels? Why? How would you feel in that situation?
4. Can you predict how the book will end?
5. Who is your favourite character? Why?
6. Is there a hidden message in the story? What is it?
7. Can you tell the story in your own words?
8. Do you like how it ended? Can you think of another way the book could have ended?

Remember that reading doesn't just have to be 'done' through books. Comics and magazines are equally good at encouraging children's interest. Point out signposts and information as you are out and about. Children like to be like you, so let them see you reading newspapers and magazines, as well as books.

We hold regular reading competitions and events to encourage children to find an author to suit them or to try something new. Children play a major role in choosing books for the school library.

Every class teacher provides children with ideas for optional homework:

Amber Class

In Amber Class, all children are encouraged to read at home on a daily basis. Please record in your child's reading record when you have read at home with them, whether that is a school book or if they have had a go at reading a book from home or the library. We have a reading incentive in Amber Class too, if they read their books from school on 3 separate occasions over the week, they are able to put their names on the Proud Cloud every Friday and get extra lunch time break as a treat.

Year 1 children have weekly spellings that they are expected to learn at home. The spellings are posted on Google Classroom every Friday and the children will have their spelling check the following Friday, giving them a week to learn and practise their spellings.

Children who have Communication Passports have extra support worksheets sent home related to their targets. This additional work is discussed with parents at Communication Passport meetings.

Sapphire Class

Children are encouraged to read their school reading book every day at home.

Weekly spellings for a test are posted on Google Classroom. Please play games on Spelling Shed online to support with your child's learning.

Occasionally homework will be set to support our learning. This will always be something fun like finding out what toys your grandparents used to play with, keeping a weather chart for a week or bringing in a favourite book to share.

Children who have Communication Passports have extra support worksheets sent home related to their targets. This additional work is discussed with parents at Communication Passport meetings.

Emerald Class

Children are expected to read lots. Families are expected to read at home with their children and sign their child's reading diary a minimum of three times each week. It is really important to listen to your child all the way through to High School to help fluency and comprehension.

The children have weekly spellings and a test on Monday mornings. They should be practising their spellings twice each week. The spellings can be found in their spelling book or on Spelling Shed.

Each week we will have a times tables test. Children are expected to practise their times tables twice per week for 10 minutes. They can use dice, write them out or use computer websites such as sumdog or hit the button. We have regular class competitions they can opt in to as well.

The children will hopefully be interested in some of the subjects we are studying at school. I hope you can encourage them to continue that interest at home. Children can bring in projects or extra work they have done back to school. We have a homework chart in class and if they fill up a section they can earn prizes! Sometimes I might give them some optional homework like covering a parent in sticky notes to learn the bones of the body, making a Roman Shield or sketching a bird in the garden but these are only for fun.

Ruby Class

Children are expected to:

Read daily.

Practise spellings for a test each week.

Practise time tables and telling the time.

Children also have access to Spelling Shed, Sumdog and Google Classroom for optional homework.

Amethyst Class

It is recommended that Year 6 children use Grammar, Spelling and Punctuation books and Mathematics' books for revision throughout the year.

Children are encouraged to read as much as possible.

Practise spellings on Spelling Shed using the weekly word lists and games. Learn spellings for a test at the end of the half term.

Children may have IXL mathematics tasks set as required.