



Introduction

It is fundamental to Isbourne Valley School that our children develop their confidence, self-belief and a can do attitude. One of the aims of our school is for children to develop as independent learners; independence is one of our school values. We believe that home learning (or homework – i.e. any activity pupils undertake out of school lesson time, either on their own or with the support of family members) is an important way in which children can acquire the skill of independent learning. Such activities can take many different forms with many different expectations and outcomes. Paper copies of Emile activities are available to send home if children are not able to access the online provision. It is important to remember that the school considers a number of points when expecting and setting home learning, including:

- that the nature and type of home learning changes throughout a pupil's school career;
- that the amount and frequency of home learning should increase as a pupil gets older;
- that home learning should not cause undue stress on the pupil, family or the teacher;
- that it will not necessarily come in the form of a written task;
- that home learning will normally be set regularly from the EYFS to Year 6.

Aims

Isbourne Valley School aims to:

- make sure that parents and carers are clear about what their child is expected to do;
- have a consistent approach throughout the school;
- use home learning as a tool to help continue to raise standards of attainment;
- improve the quality of the learning experience offered to pupils and to extend it beyond the classroom environment;
- provide opportunities for parents and carers, children and the school to work together in partnership in relation to children's learning;
- encourage pupils and their parents and carers to share and enjoy learning experiences;
- reinforce work covered in class by providing further opportunities for individual learning;
- use home learning to enable pupils to practise or consolidate skills and knowledge, especially in maths and English and to encourage children to develop the responsibility, confidence and self-discipline needed to study independently;
- develop progression towards independence and an individual responsibility; and
- prepare pupils for the transfer to secondary school.

Isbourne Valley is not a school at which homework dominates home and school life. We accept that not every activity will capture children's and parents' imaginations and understand that weekends can often be busy. We believe that homework should be enjoyable and manageable for all concerned and that if it becomes a chore/burden/source of conflict it ceases to be a constructive aspect of teaching and learning. If parents have any concerns they should not hesitate to contact the school.

The amount of homework set and time expected to be spent on it varies depending on the age of the pupils and what they are learning in class at the time. The details below set out approximate guidelines for what is expected in each age group.

We use an online website called Emile to support learning of spellings and times tables. Children are given login details when this is introduced to them by their class teacher.

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS):

Phonics

Your child will have phonics resources when we start learning phonics. Please help your child practise reading using their sounds.

Reading

When we think your child is ready, we will send reading books home. To begin with these will not have words as we encourage children to make up stories about the pictures. This is a fundamental starting block to reading. Later the children will have decodable and 'Reading for Pleasure/Sharing' books.

Please listen to your child read every day if possible, but at least three times a week for about 10 minutes. It is important to read with your child in a quiet place and take time to talk about the book. Please sign their Reading Record to record when and what they have read and make any comments.

Years One and Two:

Reading

Please listen to your child read every day if possible, but at least three times a week for about 10 minutes. It is important to read with your child in a quiet place and take time to talk about the book. Please sign their Reading Record to record when and what they have read and make any comments.

Phonics and spelling

Your child will be given lists of words (one list per week) at the start of each half term. Children can also access the spellings, games and activities on Emile for online practice. Children take part in an online 'battle' on Emile every three weeks to test the previous three weeks' spelling rules.

Maths

Your child will receive a booklet of activity sheets at the start of each term. There is one sheet per week which provides an opportunity to reinforce and practise content covered in lessons.

Years Three and Four:

Reading

Please listen to your child read every day if possible, but at least three times a week for about 10 minutes. It is important to read with your child in a quiet place and take time to talk about the book. Please sign their Reading Record to record when and what they have read and make any comments.

Spelling

Your child will be given lists of words (one list per week) at the start of each half term. Children can also access the spellings, games and activities on Emile for online practice. Children take part in an online 'battle' on Emile every three weeks to test the previous three weeks' spelling rules.

Maths

Your child will receive a booklet of activity sheets at the start of each term. There is one sheet per week which provides an opportunity to reinforce and practise content covered in lessons.

Children are expected to know all of their times tables facts by the end of Year 4. To support this, children have access to the Emile website which allows them to practise their times tables online at home.

Years Five and Six:

Reading

Please hear your child read every day if possible, but at least three times a week for about 10 minutes. It is important to read with your child in a quiet place and take time to talk about the book. Please sign their Reading Record to record when and what they have read and make any comments.

Spelling & Grammar

Your child will be given lists of words (one list per week) at the start of each half term. Children can also access the spellings, games and activities on Emile for online practice. Children take part in an online 'battle' on Emile every three weeks to test the previous three weeks' spelling rules.

Regular GPS (Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling) homework will be set online via Emile to support Year 6 with their preparation for SATS.

Maths

Your child will receive a booklet of activity sheets at the start of each term. There is one sheet per week which provides an opportunity to reinforce and practise content covered in lessons.

Other additional homework will be provided as and when required to support preparation for transition.

Role of the Class Teacher

To provide an explanation of home learning/homework tasks to parents and carers when necessary and give guidance as to how they might assist their child. This may be done by a note with the work, at a pre-school parents' meeting, at an open evening, at parents' consultation meetings if possible, and through the [school website](#);

To set up an easily followed routine;

To set home learning that takes equal and inclusive opportunities into account and is differentiated appropriately;

To ensure any home learning is purposeful and links directly to the curriculum being taught;

To reward and praise children who regularly complete home learning tasks; and

To provide feedback when necessary.

Role of Parents/Carers

To support the school by ensuring that their child attempts the home learning;

To provide a suitable place for their child to carry out their home learning;

To encourage and praise their child when they have completed their home learning;

To become actively involved and support their child with home learning activities;

To make it clear that they value home learning and they support the school by explaining how it can help learning; and

To support their child in becoming more independent in their learning as they get older;

At Isbourne Valley School we are very keen for parents and carers to support and help their children with home learning. We take the view that children are likely to get more out of an activity if adults get involved as long as they do not take over too much.

However, there are times when we will want to see what children can do by themselves. It is particularly important, as they get older, for children to become increasingly independent in their learning. If parents are unsure about what their role should be, they should discuss this with their child's teacher.

Adopted by Isbourne Valley School Governing Body on 17th June 2026

Next review Summer term 2028