



# How can I help my child in Year 5 and Year 6?



## Reading:

1. Encourage your child to read regularly – both books that they enjoy and ones they have not tried before. Both classes have age appropriate reading lists in their planners.
2. Read with your child. Discuss the meaning of the text and help them understand and engage with it. Help them understand unfamiliar words and phrases. Talk about why the characters have acted in a particular way and what your child likes about the book they are reading. (Be specific - e.g. the author made it funny in this part when they...). Talk about what you are reading as well (if appropriate). Take a look at our 'Top Tips for Reading in Year 5 and 6' on the school website.
3. Encourage your child to keep a well-kept record of their reading in their Reading Journal. Encourage them to reflect on their reading as they make entries and feel free to communicate with us or your child through the journal. The children have regular tasks set by their teachers and also a menu of activities which they can work on themselves to develop their understanding and love of reading.

## Writing:

1. Encourage your child to complete any homework and their planner to a high standard of writing to reinforce the work we are doing in school. This might include: checking for spellings together, punctuation, sentence construction and other grammatical features as well as overall presentation. (This is to meet the requirements of the National Curriculum which is more stringent in its assessment of these features of writing.)
2. To help develop writing, speaking and listening skills, encourage your child to explain things to you as clearly as possible. Question their explanation. They may need to be given a few minutes to consider and formulate a response. This could also apply to skills of persuasion or instructions. Can they use their skills of persuasion/reasoning to do or watch something special?

## Maths:

1. Keep practising times tables (up to  $12 \times 12$ ) at any available time – in the queue at the supermarket, in a traffic jam etc. Also practise related division facts from the times tables e.g.  $2 \times 5 = 10$  so  $10 \div 2 = 5$ , then move onto decimal facts e.g.  $0.2 \times 7 = 1.4$  and  $1.4 \div 7 = 0.2$ .
2. Practise using maths in real-life situations e.g. reading bus/train timetables, money (how much altogether, how much change will you get?), telling the time with analogue as well as digital clocks, converting from 12 hour to 24 hour time and working out the duration of events, measuring in cooking, reading a thermometer, dividing out and portioning.
3. Support your child to complete their maths homework to the best of their ability, encouraging them to speak with class teachers or teaching assistants if there are any problems, including work set on Mathematics. Also, encourage your child to work on Mathematics regularly: 5-10 minutes daily practice will reap rewards!

## What else?

1. Make sure your child goes to sleep at a reasonable time. Your child will have a much better chance of grasping difficult or new concepts if they arrive at school well-rested.
2. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/education> has activities and information for revising maths and English. (There are many other websites and Apps available.)
3. Encourage your child to become more independent and organised, particularly being aware of deadlines for homework and permission slips. Help them to develop strategies for making sure they have everything they need at school rather than packing their bag for them! E.g. stationery, PE kit and books.
4. Monitor their homework; encourage them to hand it in on time. If your child has not understood what they need to do and you are unsure how best to explain, remind them to ask the teacher as soon as possible.

*Finally, we encourage the children to speak with us if they are worried about anything or are not sure what to do. If you have any concerns or problems, please contact us in school. We are happy to see parents and carers throughout the school year.*

**Mr Richards, Mrs Gardonyi, Mrs Jach and Mrs Lee**



## Word list – years 5 and 6 (Taken from the National Curriculum)

accommodate	criticise (critic + ise)	individual	relevant
accompany	curiosity	interfere	restaurant
according	definite	interrupt	rhyme
achieve	desperate	language	rhythm
aggressive	determined	leisure	sacrifice
amateur	develop	lightning (h)	secretary
ancient	dictionary	marvellous	shoulder
apparent	disastrous	mischievous	signature
appreciate	embarrass	muscle (h)	sincere(ly)
attached	environment	necessary	soldier
available	equip (–ped, –ment)	neighbour	stomach
average	especially	nuisance	sufficient
awkward	exaggerate	occupy	suggest
bargain	excellent	occur	symbol (h)
bruise	existence	opportunity	system
category	explanation	parliament	temperature
cemetery	familiar	persuade	thorough
committee	foreign	physical	twelfth
communicate	forty	prejudice	variety
community	frequently	privilege	vegetable
competition	government	profession	vehicle
conscience*	guarantee	programme	yacht
conscious*	harass	pronunciation	
controversy	hindrance	queue	
convenience	identity	<u>re</u> cognise	
correspond	immediate(ly)	<u>re</u> commend	h= homophone

### Notes and guidance (non-statutory)

Teachers should continue to emphasise to pupils the relationships between sounds and letters, even when the relationships are unusual. Once root words are learnt in this way, longer words can be spelt correctly if the rules and guidance for adding prefixes and suffixes are also known. Many of the words in the list above can be used for practice in adding suffixes.

