Home Learning Expectations 2026-2027

Autumn Term 2026

Our Approach to Home Learning

At Elloughton Primary School, we believe that home learning works best when **school, pupils and families work together**. School has an important role to play in providing purposeful learning and clear expectations, while parents and carers play an equally important role in establishing positive routines at home, encouraging their child and ensuring that home learning is completed regularly.

Our approach is based on a simple principle: **a little and often makes a difference**.

Regular home learning helps children to practise and secure important skills, build confidence and develop the routines and positive learning habits they will need throughout their education. It also helps children to develop independence, take pride in their work and understand the importance of always trying their best.
We deliberately focus our home learning on the key skills that make the greatest difference to children's learning: **reading, phonics and spelling, number fluency and arithmetic**. Rather than setting lengthy homework tasks, we prioritise short, regular and purposeful opportunities to practise and consolidate learning from school.

The Important Role of Parents and Carers

Parents and carers make a significant contribution to their child's learning.
We ask families to:

- establish a regular home learning routine;
- ensure that their child completes the home learning expected for their year group;
- listen to their child read regularly and talk to them about what they are reading;
- support and encourage their child without completing tasks for them;
- talk positively about learning and encourage their child to persevere and do their best;
- encourage independence and responsibility as their child gets older;
- check your child's home learning record weekly (EYFS – Year 4) or pupil planner (Year 5/6)
- speak to your child's class teacher if he/she is experiencing difficulties with home learning.

Home learning should not simply be about completing a task. Talking to children about what they are learning, asking questions, sharing books and showing an interest in their work all help children to understand that **learning is valued both at school and at home**.

Reading — A Priority at Every Age

Reading regularly at home is one of the most valuable ways families can support their child's education. Frequent reading helps children develop fluency, vocabulary, comprehension, confidence and a wider understanding of the world.

For this reason, we expect children to read at home **at least four times each week**.

For younger children, this will often mean reading with an adult and practising phonics and familiar words. As children become fluent and increasingly independent readers, we still encourage parents and carers to talk to them about their books, ask questions and share an

interest in what they are reading. We still want older children to read with an adult (for UKS2 at least once a week).

Little and often is far more valuable than leaving reading until the end of the week.

Encouraging Writing

We also encourage families to provide opportunities for children to **write for real purposes whenever possible**.

This does not mean setting additional writing homework. Everyday opportunities such as writing shopping lists, cards, notes, invitations, diaries, stories or holiday journals can help children see writing as a useful and enjoyable part of everyday life.

As children spend increasing amounts of time using digital devices, regular opportunities to write by hand remain important for developing handwriting fluency, stamina, spelling and confidence.

Paper-Based and Digital Home Learning

Our core home learning will primarily be **paper-based**, alongside regular reading and the practical activities appropriate to each year group.

Digital platforms such as **DoodleMaths and Spelling Shed are optional and supplementary**. They provide useful opportunities for additional practice but are not intended to replace core home learning or increase the amount of time children spend using electronic devices.

Where Times Tables Rock Stars forms part of a year group's agreed home learning expectations, this will be made clear in the year-group information.

We recognise the importance of family time, play, physical activity, hobbies and rest. Home learning should therefore be **focused, manageable and purposeful**.

Building Habits for the Future

As children progress through school, we expect them to take increasing responsibility for their own home learning.

Remembering what needs to be completed, looking after resources, managing time, meeting expectations and taking pride in presentation all help establish the **positive work habits and attitudes** children will need as they move towards secondary school and future learning.

Our aim is to develop children who do not simply complete home learning because they have been asked to, but who increasingly understand the value of learning, take pride in their achievements and **want to do their best**.

Our Home Learning Principles

Read regularly
Reading is at the heart of learning. Children should read at home at least **four times each week**.

Practise little and often
Short, regular practice is more effective and manageable than lengthy, infrequent sessions.

Work together
School and home share responsibility for establishing positive attitudes and routines around learning.

Build independence
As children get older, they should take increasing responsibility for organising and completing their home learning.

Take pride and do your best
We encourage children to approach home learning positively, persevere when something is difficult and take pride in their work.

Be ready to learn
Practising important skills at home helps children secure their learning and prepares them for what comes next.

Keep a healthy balance
Home learning should be purposeful and manageable, leaving plenty of time for family life, play, interests, physical activity and rest.

Our Home Learning Expectations

Reception

In Reception, our priority is to establish positive routines around reading, phonics and early learning. Home learning should be short, enjoyable and supported by an adult.

Reading and Phonics	**Our Expectation** • Once reading books are introduced, read at home **at least four times each week.** • Before reading books are introduced, complete phonics home learning **at least four times each week**. • Practise phonics flashcards and tricky words regularly throughout the year. • Reading and phonics practice should be recorded in the child's home learning record. • Staff will check home learning record weekly and recognise regular reading through the school's reward system.
Maths	**Our Expectation** Once introduced complete the maths activities sent home to reinforce learning taking place in school.

Handwriting	**Our Expectation** Once introduced complete the handwriting activities sent home. Children should use a pencil.
DoodleMaths	**Optional Additional Practice** DoodleMaths will be available from January for families who would like additional maths practice. Children using DoodleMaths can aim to stay in the green zone through short, regular practice.

Years 1 and 2

Reading	**Our Expectation** • Read at home **at least four times each week**. • Reading should be recorded in the child's reading record. • Staff will check reading records weekly and recognise regular reading through the school's reward system. • The day on which home learning records are checked may vary between classes.
Spelling	**Our Expectation** Practise the spellings provided using the paper spelling activity. In Year 1/2, spellings should be practised **at least four times each week**.
Arithmetic	**Our Expectation** Complete the weekly arithmetic sheet sent home. Children should use a pencil and take pride in presenting their work carefully.
Times Tables Rock Stars (Y2 only)	**Our Expectation** Year 2 children should aim to practise **four or more times each week** to develop fast and accurate recall of 2x, 5x, 10x and 3x multiplication and division facts. Year 1 children may access this if they wish, but this is optional.
DoodleMaths	**Optional Additional Practice** DoodleMaths is available for families who would like additional maths practice.

Years 3 and 4

Reading	**Our Expectation** • Read at home **at least four times each week**. • Reading should be recorded in the child's home learning record. • Staff will check home learning records weekly and recognise regular reading through the school's reward system. • The day on which planners are checked may vary between classes.
Spelling	**Our Expectation** Complete the spelling activities sent home. Paper tasks should be completed neatly in pencil.
Arithmetic	**Our Expectation** Complete the weekly arithmetic sheet. Children should use a pencil and take pride in presenting their work carefully.
Times Tables Rock Stars	**Our Expectation** Children should aim to practise **four or more times each week** to develop fast and accurate recall of multiplication and division facts. Y3 - x2,5,3,4,8 and 10s Y4 - All multiplication facts up to and including 12x12 This is particularly important in Year 4 as children prepare for the **Multiplication Tables Check in the summer term**.
DoodleMaths and Spelling Shed	**Optional Additional Practice** DoodleMaths and Spelling Shed are available for families who would like additional maths or spelling practice.

Years 5 and 6

As children move through Upper Key Stage 2, we place increasing emphasis on **independence, organisation and responsibility**. Children should increasingly manage their own home learning, with parents and carers continuing to provide encouragement, interest and support.

Reading	**Our Expectation** • Read at home **at least four times each week**. • Reading should be recorded in the child's planner. • Staff will check planners weekly. • The day on which planners are checked may vary between classes.
Spelling	**Our Expectation** Complete the spelling activities sent home. Paper tasks should be completed neatly in pencil.
Arithmetic	**Our Expectation** Complete the weekly arithmetic activity. Work should be completed carefully and presented neatly.
Times Tables Rock Stars	**Our Expectation** Practise **four or more times each week** to maintain fast and accurate recall of multiplication and division facts.
DoodleMaths and Spelling Shed	**Optional Additional Practice** DoodleMaths and Spelling Shed remain available for families who would like additional maths or spelling practice.
Additional Year 6 Home Learning	As children prepare for the transition to secondary school, Year 6 pupils will receive additional home learning in **maths and GPS (Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling)** when appropriate.

Home Learning Resources

Children will be provided with the resources and information they need to complete their home learning.
Where appropriate, children will have a **home learning folder** containing:

- login details for online learning platforms;
- paper spelling activities;
- paper arithmetic activities; and
- other home learning materials provided by school.

Please help your child to keep their folder and planner safe and bring them to school when requested.

Working Together
Home learning is most effective when **school, pupils and families work together**.
If home learning is proving difficult, or there are circumstances making it challenging to complete regularly, we encourage families to speak to a member of their child's **class team**. By communicating openly, we can work together to find the best way to support each child.

Our aim is not to make home learning lengthy or onerous, but to establish positive, manageable habits that reinforce learning, build confidence, encourage children to do their best and prepare them for future learning.

Positive relationships are at the heart of our school, and by working together we can help every child to learn, grow and thrive.

Adoption, Approval, Sign Off

Signed	**Mrs Fulstow**
On behalf of	FGB
Date	Autumn Term 2026

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