



17<sup>th</sup> October 2025

Dear Parent/ Carer,

### Home Learning

This year, we have made several changes to the **home learning expectation** throughout the school. Staff felt that it would be helpful to share this information with parents/carers so that school and home can work together effectively to support our children.

Home learning can be an important way of reinforcing learning, developing the ability to learn independently, and an opportunity for parents to engage with their children about their lessons.

Currently, our home learning is based on practising reading, learning spelling rules and reinforcing some of the fundamentals of maths and English.

Research suggests that 'reading volume' - often referred to as 'reading miles' - is an important element of developing as a reader. Therefore, our expectation is that **children read for at least 30 minutes every day**. All children should have two books provided by the school, including a free choice book to nurture their pleasure in reading.

In addition, **we ask parents to participate in their child's reading at least three times a week**. For some children, this may involve reading with an adult; for others, this may be a conversation about their reading.

All year groups also have spelling rules and phonemes they are learning. These rules range from learning about homophones to learning about suffixes and prefixes.

Spelling rules are tested weekly and will include specific words that have been taught as well as other words with the same rule or phoneme.

It is important, when learning spellings, that children explore the rules or sounds rather than solely rote learning the words. Overall, **we would expect children to be practising their spellings for approximately 30 minutes per week**, but these should be short sessions over several days. For example, 10 minutes three times per week.

**In Years Three and Four**, the maths focus is on learning times tables in preparation for the statutory Multiple Tables Check. We use the website Times Tables Rock Stars (TTRS) to support parents with this aspect of home learning. There are various game modes for children to explore and, when they are successful, they receive 'coins' that can be spent on their avatar.

In Year Three, the expectation is that children are completing 15 minutes per week on the Garage section of TTRS and in Year Four completing at least 3 'Soundchecks' and 10 minutes of 'Studio', which should add up to approximately 15 minutes too.

**In Years Five and Six**, we ask children to complete a maths activity and an English activity. Generally, these tasks are linked to learning completed in school, so should be practice. On occasion, the tasks may be pre-learning to help prepare for lessons that we are about to teach.

In general, these tasks should take no more than 15 minutes for English and 15 minutes for maths. If you are finding your child, whilst concentrating on the task, is taking longer than this, then please contact the class teacher.

The additional home learning tasks set in Years Five and Six are an important part of preparing our children for secondary school as many of the schools we send children on to have greater expectations in terms of the amount of homework.

To support children with following this expectation, if they do not complete their home learning we may provide them an opportunity during lunchtime to do this.

Should you have further questions about home learning, please contact your child's class teacher, who will be able to answer them.

Yours sincerely,

**Mr Dan Ainscow and Mr Liam Murphy**  
**Headteachers, Crosshall Junior School**