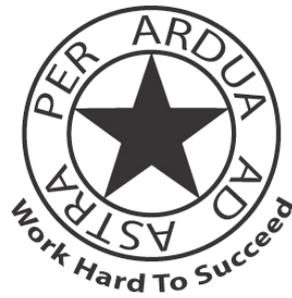


**GARDEN SUBURB
JUNIOR SCHOOL**



Homework

HOMEWORK

At Garden Suburb Junior School, we set homework to consolidate the learning in the classroom and develop a working partnership between school and home. This is a wonderful way for you, as parents, to find out what your child has been working on at school. More importantly it allows you to see what they have found interesting and more challenging.

The type of homework set varies across the school, depending on the term and the year group. Over their time at Garden Suburb Junior school, the children *could* be asked to complete reading journal activities, grammar and punctuation tasks, prepare a reading task, practise maths tasks, research and create a project, consider 'the Big Question!' and create a learning log. All children are also expected to practise/learn spellings and times tables weekly.

(see appendix 1 for timetable)

- Reading journal activities encourage children not only to read regularly, but to analyse what they are reading and develop their thinking further. They may be asked for example to describe a favourite character or to create a 'blurb' for the book
- 'The Big Question' encourages the children to develop their own question which they want to discuss or find the answer to. It allows them to consider topics in a deeper and more analytical way and present their findings to the class independently
- Creating projects facilitates for children to consolidate their understanding of a particular topic and to deliver that understanding in a variety of ways to the rest of the class

- Learning logs are a unique personalised learning tool for children, where they can record their responses to their learning that day. Each log is a record of the child's own thinking and learning. They are reflective journals for the children to record their knowledge and understanding in which ever way they feel most helpful. The children are expected to log each day something they have found interesting or challenging from that day's learning. They can use pictures, writing, diagrams, labels, bullet points, mind maps or whichever style they wish to present their work and are encouraged to be as creative and as independent as possible. As this activity is open ended it enables the outcome of children to be differentiated by ability. Children are expected to spend half an hour each evening, more if desired, on their log

Appendix 1

Year Group	Autumn	Spring	Summer
3	Spellings, tables and reading only	Research project	Learning logs
4	Reading journal activities	Learning logs	' The Big Question'
5	Learning logs	Research project	Reading journal activities
6	Daily maths and English homework	Daily maths and English homework	Learning logs

How parents can help at home

Parents play an important role in developing children's confidence, organisation and sense of responsibility by:

- Encouraging and recognising the effort a child has made in completing their homework. As teachers we recognise individual effort as well as the quality of content. It is important that parents also do this by showing an interest and generally getting involved, ie through discussion, providing resources, taking them to the library
- Providing a peaceful and suitable place where homework can be done
- Making it clear that parents also value homework
- Expecting deadlines to be met and checking they are. Homework should be handed in on the day it is due. This may be the next day, on the following Monday or a week later. A consequence of not doing so is that children are required to miss their playtime to complete their homework. Parents are asked to sign their child's homework diary to check homework is complete or to explain the reason if not
- Assisting with difficulties and giving ideas and guidance where necessary.

Marking and feedback

The children are expected to return with their homework to school to share their outcomes with members of the class as well as their class teacher. Children will be given verbal or written feedback from their peers and also their class teacher. House points will be given to praise outcomes and effort. A 'learning log of the week' will be chosen and displayed during the relevant term. In this way we endeavour to develop thinking, problem solving and creativity skills, allowing the children to use their knowledge as a

'consolidation of learning' tool and to encourage them to discuss and share their thinking in a collaborative way.

We feel that learning at home is an essential part of a child's education. Homework reinforces learning in the classroom and develops the skills and attitudes needed for successful, independent lifelong learning.

We feel our homework programme also allows for time to participate in valuable after school activities and leisure pursuits.

November 2014