**Low Ash’s homework strategy**

We believe that our wonderful children work incredibly hard when they're at school. We don't believe that doing an enormous amount of homework is in their best interests... In fact, we'd love it if the majority of their free time was spent doing lovely things or visiting interesting places with their family & friends, perhaps even attempting the National Trust '50 things to do before you're 11¾'! <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/features/50-things-to-do-before-youre-11--activity-list>

However, in order for our children to thrive academically we would be delighted if you can support them with the following home-learning tasks: Reading for all: There is so much enjoyment to be had from reading to and with your child and we believe passionately that reading as frequently as possible has enormous benefits to children's future happiness and success. It's also such a lovely thing to do together, as parent and child. Why not try a book from one of our lists of recommended reads for each year group? These can also be found in the homework section on the website.

**Reading in Reception and Key Stage 1**

Learning to read is a complex skill which involves not only decoding the words but understanding the vocabulary, being able to read with expression and fluency and being able to talk confidently about the book. At Low Ash we would like all children to flourish and develop a love for reading. We choose your child’s home reading book very carefully, ensuring that all books are phonetically decodable within the phonics phase that your child is working at, as is best practice and following recent Ofsted guidelines. Pupils are individually assessed on their phonics knowledge each half term and each child is then given a book that is accessible for them at their level, so that the child can read it and enjoy it. Research suggests that children should be able to fluently read 90% of the book independently. At school, children will benefit from a daily shared read and a daily phonics lesson. Your child will bring home a new reading book every 3 days that they will be able to read independently because they have read it at least 3 times in school. At home, we would like your child to read the book over and over again, allowing them to increase in confidence and therefore increasing the level of enjoyment. We then expect the pupils to have some understanding of what they have read and be confident to answer questions about the text. Our aim is that children read their reading book at least 3 times a week. In addition to their reading book your child will bring home a story book and a library book.

**Reading in Key Stage 2**

Once children are able to read fluently and with good understanding, having completed the Read, Write Inc Phonics programme, they will then become free readers. Children will be guided to the best book choices for them by a colour coding system. This happens for most children by the end of Year 2 but some children may remain on the Phonics programme as they enter Key Stage 2. For as long as your child is on the Read, Write Inc programme they will bring home a book that matches their phonic ability and enables them to read fluently. It is very important to us that all our Key Stage 2 children continue to develop a passion for reading. In school we will read a wide range of quality text to them and with them. Each class will visit the library regularly and classroom book areas will provide tantalising choices of well displayed books.

We ask that you, as parents and carers, continue to read with your child. It is important that your child has favourite titles and authors. As with Key Stage 1, our aim is that your child read at home at least 3 times a week. Please sign their reading record to indicate that they have done this.

**Spelling**

From Year 1 upwards, alongside the teaching of Phonics for Key Stage 1, we begin to teach children how to master different spelling conventions, using a variety of different strategies. Some spellings follow these conventions and patterns; whilst other are spelled in non-conventional way and need to be learned. These are the words which will be sent home to learn because they require additional practise. We send home words from the ‘common exception list’ in groups to learn across the year, at the correct level for your child from Y1 to Y6.

**Maths**

In **Key Stage 1** your child will bring home some ***Key Instant Recall Facts (KIRFS),*** each half term. Mastering these facts will help them with their Maths work in school. We ask that you make time to help your child learn these facts. They do not need to be written down, they can be made into games. Your child will be tested on these facts throughout the half term.

In **Key Stage 2** all children will be set **My Maths** homework. This is online work and reflects the learning that has taken place in school that week. If your child is unable to access a computer or I – pad at home they will be given the opportunity to attend homework club after school.

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|  | **Reading** | **Spellings** | **Maths** |
| **Year 1** | A new Phonics book will come home every 3 or 5 days, alongside a story book. We ask that your child’s reading books are always kept in their book bag so that we can change them. Please ensure that your child reads at least 3 times a week | New spellings will be sent home every Friday for your child to learn. They will be tested the following Friday | New Maths KIRFS (key instant recall facts) sent home each half term  |
| **Year 2** |
| **Year 3** | Please ensure that your child reads their reading book or library book at least 3 times a weekEvery time your child reads, you or they, should log it in their homework diaryHomework diaries should then be signed weekly by parents and carers and will be checked by school staff on a weekly basisWe will celebrate the success of those children that have read 3 timesChildren that are free readers will change their books independently on completion of the book. Children that are accessing the Read, Write Inc Phonic scheme will bring a new book home every 3 or 5 days that they will be fluent at reading. Please ensure that these books are always kept in their book bags | New spellings will be sent home every Monday for your child to learn. They will be tested the following Monday | My Maths will be set every Monday |
| **Year 4** | New spellings will be sent home every Friday for your child to learn. They will be tested the following Friday | My Maths will be set every Wednesday |
| **Year 5** | New spellings will be sent home every Monday for your child to learn. They will be tested the following Monday | My Maths set every Monday  |
| **Year 6** | New spellings will be sent home every Monday for your child to learn. They will be tested the following Friday | My Maths set every Tuesday  |