



MALTESE ROAD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Maltese Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 2PA

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www.malteseroadprimary.com

Headteacher: Mrs F White

25th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following our recent parent meeting, where homework was discussed, we have taken some time to reflect on the questions and feedback raised.

We recognise that homework can be a positive experience for some children and families. However, we also know from speaking to families and from our own observations that, for many children, completing a weekly homework task can cause anxiety and stress. In some cases, this can also place additional pressure on families.

As a school, we have a responsibility to consider the needs of all of our children, including their academic progress, confidence, wellbeing and individual circumstances.

Our approach to homework

It is important to clarify that there is no legal requirement for primary schools to set weekly homework. The decision about homework is at the school's discretion, and we have carefully considered what is most appropriate for our children.

The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) evidence does not suggest that simply setting homework will improve children's progress. Its evidence around homework in primary schools is more limited, and the impact is dependent on the type and purpose of the activity. We therefore believe that our focus should be on ensuring that children regularly practise and consolidate the key skills that have the greatest importance in their everyday learning.

For us, these key areas are:

- Reading
- Spelling
- Punctuation and Grammar
- Times tables

These skills require regular practice and repetition, and we would encourage children to practise them little and often at home.



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Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar

Children will continue to be taught spelling in school in line with the statutory spelling requirements for their year group.

Spelling Frame is available to support this learning at home. We encourage children to practise their statutory spellings regularly using Spelling Frame alongside the teaching and practice that takes place in school. We will also be adding a link to the CGP resources for each year group, which includes short 10-minute SPaG quizzes. These provide an additional opportunity for children who would like to practise and consolidate their grammar, punctuation and spelling skills at home, without the pressure of a formal weekly homework task.

Reading and Times Tables

Regular reading at home remains extremely important. Children's reading logs will continue to be checked and monitored by teachers, and we encourage families to make reading a regular part of their child's routine.

Times Tables Rock Stars (TTRockStars) will also continue to be available and monitored regularly by teachers. Regular practice will help children develop the fluency and confidence they need with their times tables.

What happens with weekly homework?

For children in Years 1–5, a formal piece of homework will not necessarily be set every week. This does not mean that our homework offer has been removed or reduced. The resources and activities that support children's learning are still available and can be accessed through the school website, on each class page.

Teachers will continue to guide children towards activities that will help them consolidate the learning taking place in school. Where a child needs additional practice or support in a particular area, teachers may direct them towards specific resources or activities.

Following careful monitoring by teachers, we have found that typically only around 7–10 children in a class regularly complete the weekly homework that is set. We therefore want to move away from a system where completing a weekly task can become a source of anxiety or conflict, while still providing families with opportunities to support learning at home.

Writing Bingo and other resources

Children will continue to have access to Writing Bingo, which can be found on the school website on their class page. This provides children with opportunities to practise their writing in a fun and flexible way.

To help us reduce unnecessary printing, paper copies of Writing Bingo will not be routinely provided.



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We would also encourage you to explore your child's class page on the school website. There are many useful links, activities and resources available to support your child's learning at home across a range of subjects and areas.

Our aim is to make learning at home accessible, purposeful and manageable, rather than something that creates unnecessary stress for children or families.

We appreciate that this is a change in approach and thank you for your continued support. We will continue to monitor children's progress and wellbeing carefully and will review our approach as necessary to ensure that it meets the needs of our children.

Thank you for working in partnership with us to support your child's learning.

Kind regards,

Mrs Faye White
Headteacher