

Homework Procedures for Children in Reception 2026/27

Monday 21st September 2026

Dear Parents/ Carers,

At Parkside, we believe homework should be purposeful and meaningful. It should also be manageable for the children, parents/carers and staff. At this early stage, homework is a positive experience when it is shared with an adult, ideally at a relaxed part of the day and for a short time. The homework for Reception is designed to support and develop skills and concepts that have been introduced in school. With this in mind, it is also really important that it is completed so it can support your child's progress and help develop their learning ethos.

To promote the importance of reading at Parkside, we have a 'Home Reading Agreement' which sets out expectations for reading for the year. **This will be need to be signed and agreed to by the school, parents/carers and the children.**

The 'Home Reading Agreement' is in the front of your child's reading record- it will need to be signed by parents/carers and the child by Monday 28th September 2026.

Reception

Reading:

*Your child will bring home **2 reading** books in Reception:*

A reading for pleasure book

This will be the first book you receive and has been chosen by your child from the class library/library bus. We have lots of different books for the children to choose from and we encourage them to look for what interests them.

This will be changed by your child when they have finished it and then they will choose another.

Your child may want to read this on their own or you might want to read it to them. Your child could also look at the pictures inside the book and describe them. They could even draw or write about their favourite character or part of the story.

A phonics book (they will receive 1 book weekly):

The children are currently being assessed in their phonics knowledge; they will receive this book when the Baseline Reception Assessments are completed.

Your child will bring home a book closely matched to their current phonics/ reading level. Please support your child while they are reading by giving lots of encouragement, stopping if they need help or even reading parts together and allowing them to try on their own. Your child could also look at the pictures inside the book and describe them. They could even draw or write about their favourite character or part of the story. **Their book changing day will be displayed in their reading record.** As per the 'Home Reading Agreement', parents/carers are expected to hear their child read as **often as they can** and sign the reading record **at least once a week**. **Their book day will be displayed in their reading record. As per the 'Home Reading Agreement', your child will need to bring their reading books and reading record to school every day.**

Key Words:

Your child will receive a set of 6 key words each week. Once they recognise all of that set, they will move onto the next set. The key words are coloured in green and red. The **green words** can be sounded out, for example 'cat' you can sound out 'c-a-t'. The **red words** must be sight read, for example 'the'.

The key words are important to learn as they are common words that appear frequently in texts and stories and are crucial for early reading and writing. Over time, the children are taught to recognise them instantly without having to sound them out. Throughout the year, the children will also learn to spell and write these words, independently, in sentences.

Tips/ideas for helping your child learn the key words:

- **Reading Together:** Point out the words in storybooks and have the child read them, helping them see the words in context.
- **Flashcards:** Create sets of flashcards to practice recognising words, either as a memory game or a matching activity.
- **Word Hunts:** Hide words around your home and have the child find and identify them.
- **Tracing:** Use materials like salt, sand, or even tracing on an adult's palm to write words.
- **Word Mapping:** Write the word and then trace it with different coloured pencils/crayons over the original word to create a "rainbow effect".

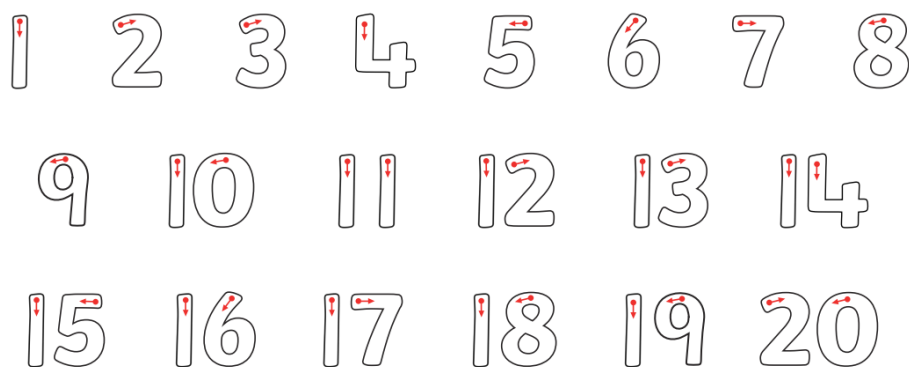
The children are currently being assessed in their phonics knowledge; they will receive the key words when the Baseline Reception Assessments are completed. They will receive their phonics reading book and key words once they are in their phonics groups.

Maths:

In Reception, your child will be introduced to numbers and counting, and will start to use basic mathematical language. An interest in maths and problem solving will be encouraged through fun activities. Much of your child's learning will come from exploring and talking about maths and there are simple ideas you can do at home to support their development.

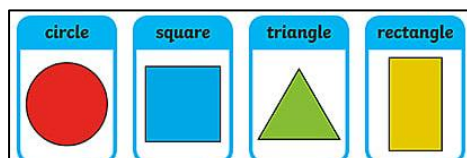
Tips/ideas for helping your child develop their maths skills:

- **Building with bricks and other objects:** Building is a good way of developing maths skills through solving problems. For example: How many red bricks are there? How many blue bricks are there? How many are there altogether? Hmm, I wonder which is the longest brick?
- **Count everything!:** One of the first number skills your child will learn is counting. Practising counting will help them with all sorts of number problems that they will encounter as they get older. Try to get into the habit of counting when you are out and about.
- **Talk about time:** Talking about the time at which different things happen and looking at the clock together during the day is a great way to learn about time. This will help set the foundation for telling the time in later years.
- **Spot patterns:** Look for repeating patterns on curtains, wallpaper, or clothing etc.. Ask your child: Can you see a pattern? Tell me about it. What will come next? Start patterns with blocks, beads, playing cards, and toys. Encourage your child to build on the pattern to make it longer.
- **Practise forming numerals:** Help your child to learn the numerals by exploring their shapes. You could have fun forming numbers in sand with a stick, or making numbers out of modelling clay. Write numbers for your child to copy, and hold your hand over their hand to help direct them.

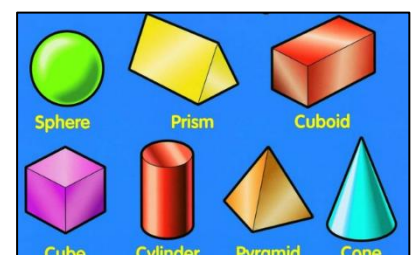


- **Find shapes:** Help your child look for shapes around them and describe what they look like. You could use shape sorters, puzzles or draw the shapes. You could explore both 2D and 3D shapes. Examples to look for are below:

2D Shapes=



3D shapes=



A date for the diary: Friday 9th October 2026: Reception/ Year 1 Early Reading and Maths Workshop Meeting in the Hall 9:00am- Please use the Wellington Avenue entrance.

Parents/carers are welcome to join this workshop with a focus on phonics and early maths in both Reception and Year 1. We will speak about reading and maths at Parkside and provide further ideas for you to support your child's learning at home.

I hope this clarifies our homework procedures and expectations but if you have any further queries please contact the school.

Yours sincerely,

Lisa Cousins
(Headteacher)