

St. Oliver's NS Homework Recommendations

As we enter the winter months with less daylight this may be a good time to think about and focus on home-learning activities. Please bear in mind the following points:

- The recommended time for home learning is related to the age of the child. This will range from 10-20 minutes for children up to 2nd class to 30-45 minutes for children up to S¹¹ class.
- Home-learning is especially important for practicing new skills and basic facts learned in school. We learn new material better when we practice it for a short time often. It is better to do three 10 minute sessions in a day rather than one 30 minute session. This is why it is good to practice things like letter sounds, maths tables, spelling tricky words etc. at home as well as at school. We now plan to include these in our home-learning assignments.
- Your child may be getting some additional help at school from a support teacher. The support teacher may ask your child to practice some things at home. The support teacher and the classroom teacher will try to make sure that this does not lead to a child being given too much to do. If there is a difficulty it is important to let the child's teacher know.
- Children in our S¹¹ - S¹² classes will also benefit from developing their own study and planning skills. This may involve doing occasional more extensive home-learning projects over a period of a week or more where they will have to organise and plan so as to complete their assignment on time. We plan to continue our focus on projects and presentations in these classes.
- The best home-learning activity your child can do is to read. Our younger pupils are learning the skills to become a reader. Once these skills are learned the most important thing for them to become a skilled reader is to read as much as possible. Some of this reading will be from school textbooks but more importantly it should also include reading other books for the pleasure of reading. Please also read to and with your child and also model reading at home by letting your children see you read. The following graph shows the dramatic difference between reading just a little each day and reading for a longer time each day.

Time Spent Reading Each Day

