

## Enhanced Help Preparation Guide - Year Four

Many parents find that simply setting a half-hour slot at some point after school and designating this as 'the homework half-hour' is the best approach. Children get used to doing this and it becomes part of the schedule and it can be filled with school home-work or your own schedule. Of course, when more intensive work is then needed (before exams for instance) this isn't a struggle as the household is used to the 'homework half hour'.

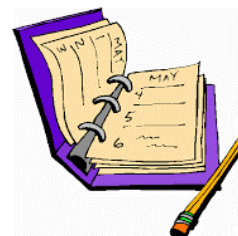


### Managing 'The Basics' and school given homework:

- Firstly some schools give no work, others give work only near exams, and others give work regularly. Whatever your school does our advice is to give the school given work priority, always make sure it is done on time and to the best of a child's ability.
- Teachers will naturally develop a view of your child and will give more or less of their time to that child accordingly. Teachers naturally respond to children who do their work on time, do the work to the best of their ability and take part in class. It's important when working at home that the school doesn't become an afterthought.
- Most schools will also ask you to do as much as you can on what we term '[The Basics](#)'
- Please make sure you are doing this fully and properly before attempting anything more. If 'The Basics' are all you can do or want to do then that's fine - your child will benefit and make good progress.

### Enhanced Help At Home - How to deliver it:

- Where there is time available within the 'homework half-hour' (as is the case with most families because schools do not send much work home); then there's an opportunity to do more.
- Any help has to be done in an organised way to be effective.
- Remember that marking work promptly and giving feedback is essential. We'd suggest doing less work but marking and feeding back promptly. This is much better than doing more work but not doing the marking and feedback properly.



### Stage 1

The work below should take up **two half-hour sessions** each week, leaving five sessions free for school work.

- **Maths** – Do one page of the Schofield and Sims Mental Arithmetic book per week. Resource lists and links – [Year Four Maths Books](#) and [Year Four English Books](#)
- **English** - Work through Scholastic English Practice Book doing two pages per week.



## Stage 2

The work below should take up an additional two 'homework half-hour' slots leaving three sessions free for school work. Work to be done in addition to 'The Basics' and in addition to 'Stage1'

- **Maths** - Each week alternate between- Carol Vorderman Maths Made Easy Problem Solving 7-9 and the Scholastic Maths Year Four Practice Book. Both can be found here [Books for Year Four](#). Use one homework half-hour slot for this.
- **English** - Each week, alternate between the Schofield and Sims Springboard books and the Scholastic Grammar and Punctuation Book. Use one 'homework half-hour' slot for this.

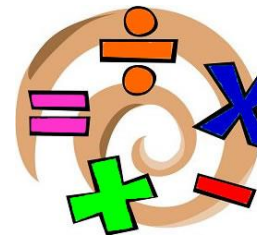


The Springboard books are loved by children but the activities vary in length. Sometimes they will do three pages in the half-hour, sometimes they will only do one. NB there are no answers available for these books but they are very self-explanatory and excellent which is why we recommend them.

## Stage 3

If you have more time available and want to do more then we can suggest the following:

- For those children who need help with handwriting (and often, especially with screens this is the case as children haven't developed the right motor skills)- do a session every week using - Scholastic years 3 and 4 handwriting book as detailed on the year 4 books page.
- If children need further focus on Maths then use Scholastic Maths Practice Book Year 4.
- To fill additional time usefully we'd then suggest the Schofield and Sims Comprehension Book 2 which will help children with this core skill.



## Rewards

Running your own rewards programme that works for you is essential. We make some suggestions about how you can do this in our [rewards section](#).



## Summary

- By using 'The Basics' and 'Enhanced Help' Stages 1,2,and 3 you should be able to use the time you have available to provide the kind of help at home that children in year four really benefit from.
- By thinking about the 'homework half-hour' you help to create a regular space for learning which becomes hassle free.

- Most parents who use this system quickly realise that there's no point in spending £100 a month on Tuition Centres ( many of which only send you home with work to do anyway) and that by the time you have factored in getting ready and travelling you would have completed the homework half-hour anyway.
- The cost of all the books we have suggested for year four including delivery will be around £70 which compares to roughly £1000 parents might spend on a year of Maths and English with a tuition centre.
- Very few parents will religiously stick to any plan but remember that Primary School is a time when parents can have a really positive impact on their child's learning and so it is worth doing. Helping your child to perform to the best of their ability is something that parents who do work at home using the homework half-hour process find incredibly rewarding.



## A Final Word on Spelling

You'll have noticed that we haven't included any spelling work specifically. Partially this is because this tends to be the one thing that all schools do send home each week, but also because our 'Personal Words' process includes learning to spell these new words as part of the process. A combination of a school driven spelling schedule plus the personal words lists should ensure children are properly covered on this topic.

