



HUMPHREY PERKINS SCHOOL

Lionheart Educational Trust

Humphrey Perkins School
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Deputy CEO Jenny Piper-Gale
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Dear Parents and Carers,

A new approach to Maths homework in Years 7–9

From this term, we are changing how Maths homework works for pupils in Years 7 to 9, and we wanted to explain why.

Why we're changing

Previously homework the maths homework has been set using online platforms like Complete Maths TUTOR and has largely been judged on whether it was completed. Although this approach has worked well, it didn't always help us, or the pupils focus on the quality of learning and practice that they were doing. With AI tools now freely available, completion is an even less reliable sign that a child has actually understood the work. A finished-looking task can be produced without any of the thinking it was meant to involve.

We understand that your child's time at home is valuable, and we want to help them make the best use of the part of it they spend on schoolwork.

Because of these reasons, we're reframing homework as preparation: retrieval and practice of important ideas, ready for a short check-in quiz in class. The question shifts from "was it done?" to "what do they now know, and what can they do?"

How the fortnightly cycle works

- Every two weeks, your child receives a **prep sheet** covering the maths to get confident with.
- They have the full two weeks to work through it, in their prep book, by hand.
- They don't need to answer every question. The sheet is designed so they can focus on what they're least sure of, which is a skill in itself. Their teacher will give them guidance on the specific questions that they should be completing.
- **Answers are provided with the sheet.** There's no advantage to looking anything up. The value is in the thinking, not in producing a correct-looking answer.
- At the end of the cycle, there's a short, **low-stakes quiz** in class (about 15–20 minutes) on the same material.





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How you can help at home

- Encourage a little, often. A few minutes on several days beats one long session the night before it's due.
- If your child is stuck, Dr Frost Maths (drfrost.org) has explanation videos and extra practice linked from every sheet.
- Please discourage your child from using AI tools (like ChatGPT) for this homework. We may introduce guidance on using AI as a learning aid in future, but that would be with clear support to make sure pupils are not letting AI do the thinking instead of them. We're asking families to hold off for now.
- The quiz isn't formally graded. Its purpose is feedback for your child and their teacher about what's understood and what needs another look. Please keep the focus on effort and understanding rather than the score.

If you have any questions about this approach, please contact Samantha Grocock via samantha.grocock@humphreyperkins.org.uk

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely,

Samantha Grocock

Head of Maths

