DALMAIN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Helping your child at home

Simple ideas for maths, reading and writing

YEAR 6

Talk every day

Talking is where reading, writing and maths begin – and clear speaking will help them thrive at secondary school.

Big questions
Discuss news and ideas: "Is it ever right to…?"

Formal and informal
Talk about how we speak to friends versus a head teacher.

Justify it
"My evidence for this is…" builds strong answers.

Maths

Percentages in shops
"The coat is £40 with 25% off. How much will it cost?"

Explain the method
"How did you work that out? Is there another way?"

Scale a recipe
Use ratio to double a recipe or adapt it for 6 people instead of 4.

Speedy facts
Quick-fire times tables, square numbers and prime numbers keep them fluent.

KEY FACTS TO KNOW THIS YEAR (KIRFS)

AUTUMN 1
All times tables up to 12 × 12

AUTUMN 2
Identify common factors of a pair of numbers

SPRING 1
Fraction, decimal and percentage equivalents

SPRING 2
Identify prime numbers up to 50

SUMMER 1
Double and halve 2-digit decimals

SUMMER 2
Formulae for the area of different shapes

TALK LIKE A MATHEMATICIAN – ENCOURAGE FULL SENTENCES

"50% is equivalent to ½. To find 50% of an amount, divide by 2."

"The ratio of red counters to blue counters is 1 : 2."

KEY MATHS WORDS TO USE AT HOME

ratio · proportion · scale factor · simplify · highest common factor · lowest common multiple · order of operations · brackets · integer · negative number · percentage · one million

Little and often – just 10 minutes a day makes a real difference.

Reading

Read every day

20–30 minutes of independent reading builds stamina for SATs and secondary school.

Try something new

Suggest a genre or author they haven't tried – mysteries, poetry, non-fiction.

Back it up

When they give an opinion, ask them to point to the words that prove it.

Skim and scan

Race to find a fact in a leaflet, menu or web page. It's a key reading skill.

TALK ABOUT THE BOOK

"How has the author made you feel this way? Which words?"

"How has this character changed through the story?"

"How is this book similar to another you've read?"

Writing

Who is it for?

Talk about the reader first, then choose formal or informal language to suit.

Say it, then improve it

Say a sentence aloud, then find a stronger verb or a more precise word.

Punctuation power

Look out for colons, semi-colons and dashes in books, and try them out.

Edit with pride

Encourage them to re-read, check and improve their work before calling it finished.

YEAR 5 AND 6 SPELLINGS TO PRACTISE

aggressive · bruise · committee · controversy · exaggerate · mischievous · parliament · privilege · pronunciation · queue · restaurant · vehicle

Try **look, say, cover, write, check** with a few words each week. Ask your class teacher for the full list.

More ideas to try at home

Quick, free activities that fit into everyday life. Pick one or two a week – no worksheets needed.

MATHS **Plan a trip**
Let them plan a day out: budget, timetable, journey times and costs.

MATHS **Sale shopper**
Work out sale prices: "20% off £35 – what will we pay?"

MATHS **Puzzle time**
Sudoku, logic puzzles and number riddles build reasoning skills.

MATHS **Recipe ratio**
"This serves 4. How much do we need for 10 people?"

READING **News and views**
Read a news story together. What are the facts? What are opinions?

READING **Book vs film**
Read a book, then watch the film. Which was better, and why?

READING **Try a classic**
Read a classic together and talk about how life was different then.

WRITING **Make your case**
Write a persuasive speech or letter about something they care about.

WRITING **Formal or chatty?**
Write the same message as a text and as a formal letter. Compare.

WRITING **Ideas notebook**
Collect great words, phrases and story ideas to use in writing.

TALK **Ready for secondary**
Practise introducing themselves and asking an adult for help.

TALK **Both sides**
Pick a topic and argue for both sides before deciding what you think.

Why reading matters

Reading for pleasure is one of the best ways to help your child do well at school – and to get ready for secondary.

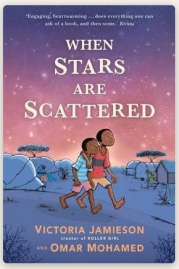
Keep talking about books together, and let them see you reading too!

Visit your local library

- Joining is **free** and children can borrow books at no cost.
- Let them choose their own books – graphic novels count too.
- Many libraries also offer free homework help and computers.

☆ Recommended reads for Year 6

Stories, facts, poems and comics from many voices and places. Look out for them at your local library.

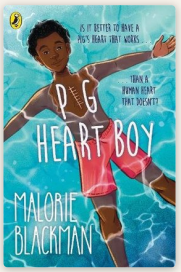


GRAPHIC NOVEL

When Stars Are Scattered

Victoria Jamieson & Omar Mohamed

Omar's true story of growing up with his little brother in a Kenyan refugee camp.

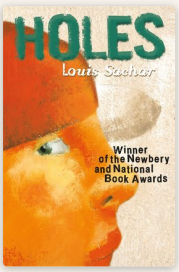


FICTION

Pig-Heart Boy

Malorie Blackman

Cameron needs a new heart – and is offered a pig's. A powerful, thought-provoking story.

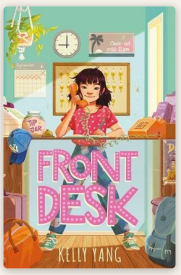


FICTION

Holes

Louis Sachar

Stanley is sent to a desert camp to dig holes all day – but what are they looking for?

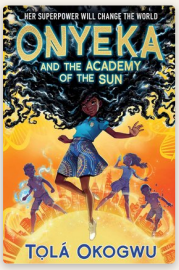


FICTION

Front Desk

Kelly Yang

Mia runs a motel front desk while her immigrant parents work hard to get by.

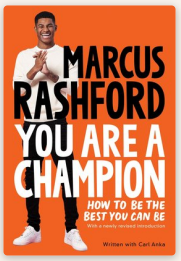


FANTASY

Onyeka and the Academy of the Sun

Tolá Okogwu

Onyeka discovers her hair has superpowers and is sent to a secret school in Nigeria.

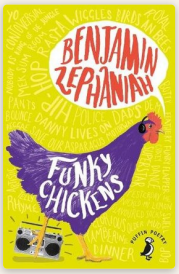


NON-FICTION

You Are a Champion

Marcus Rashford & Carl Anka

The footballer's guide to confidence, resilience and reaching your potential.

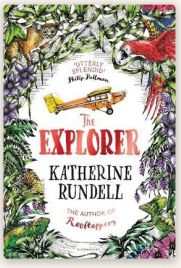


POETRY

Funky Chickens

Benjamin Zephaniah

Lively, funny and thoughtful poems that are made to be read out loud.



ADVENTURE

The Explorer

Katherine Rundell

Four children survive a plane crash in the Amazon rainforest and must find a way home.

Find 50 more top reads

Scan the code or visit **booksfortopics.com** and choose **Recommended Reads › Year 6**.