



Homework policy

Rationale

The purpose of homework takes many forms. It may be used:

- To consolidate (secure) skills, e.g. a new concept recently introduced, learning times tables, becoming quicker at recall or use of efficient methods in maths
- To extend opportunities for learning, e.g. further research for the topic/ subject being studied
- To encourage independent learning skills and transferable skills
- To develop organisational skills
- To raise self- esteem and confidence, e.g. in being able to do and achieve something
- Themselves

Homework content

A range of work covering various knowledge and skills will be given that are appropriate to the age and stage of development of the child and curriculum. For the most part it will consist of activities that secure and use the key skills such as reading, spelling, and maths. Opportunities to enrich and extend learning through topic research or other practical related tasks will be encouraged.

*Appendix 1 sets out a homework expectation and progression for each Key Stage.

Partnership

We believe that learning at home in partnership with the school is an essential way of promoting a positive approach to learning. Much research indicates that children who continue their learning at home and where parents take an active interest make better progress and achieve well at school.

Homework Timetable

Parents will be informed when homework is set and the day for its return by the class teacher and in the homework book/ folder.

Top Tips for successful homework study

- ❖ Try to set time aside to do homework and encourage a routine.
- ❖ Wherever possible, try to provide a reasonably quiet place for homework to be done (or take them to another location where it can be done, e.g. library).
- ❖ Praise effort and/or specific aspects of their work, e.g. 'Well done you have tried really hard to complete that', or 'I like the way you have used adjectives to give more description'. This is known to be more effective than comments such as 'well done' or 'you are clever!'
- ❖ Encourage independence in learning as much as possible. Help and guide your child but try not to do the homework for them.

- ❖ Please encourage your child to complete and hand their homework in on time. The class teacher will advise the day for this. A separate homework book and or folder will be given for completion of homework.
- ❖ Do write a comment in the homework book/ or sheet. Please do not let your child struggle on if they are finding it too difficult. Leave it and let the teacher know who will can then take appropriate actions to support your child.
- ❖ Encourage your child to complete their work with care and good presentation. They should take pride in their learning, achievements and efforts.
- ❖ Give your child confidence through lots of praise and encouragement- this is a vital part of successful learning.
- ❖ If homework is not completed or handed in on time, children may be given a sanction in order to compete it. However, as the school grows in size, in particular with KS2 pupils, we will endeavour to make a lunchtime club available supervised by a member of staff, to enable pupils to manage completing homework on time, and with help at hand should they need it.
- ❖ Read to, and with, your child as much as possible, for younger pupils this should be daily. Let them see you reading. As a guide approximately 10 mins per day R-Y2 and 20 min per day Y3-Y6.
- ❖ Help your child by focusing on the key skills that they are learning. For younger pupils this will be using their growing sounds and letter knowledge (phonics), e.g. initial sound (T- ap-tap), or to sound out simple words, e.g. 'c-a-t'- cat, and sight vocabulary of more tricky words, e.g. the, where, then. Ask your child to tell you about the pictures, encourage them to use full sentences and provide detail. Look for clues to words in the pictures. Model reading with expression. Ask them questions about what might happen next (prediction) and for older readers, questions that check understanding of the text and inference skills.
- ❖ Make use of your local library and special events, especially during the holidays.
- ❖ Look out for special events and services for children and young people.
- ❖ Visit museums and places of interest that link into the topic being learnt or that your child would find interesting.

Feedback on homework

Pupils will be given feedback on their homework. It will be given in a way that lets your child know:

- How well they have done.
- How they could do better.
- What to do next.

This may not always happen through written comments from the teacher. Sometimes, work will be discussed in lessons or teachers may give written comments on just one or two aspects of a piece of work. If you are concerned about the feedback given to your child you should discuss this with the class teacher.

Homework Guidance

Homework that we give the children will increase as they move through the school. We expect the infant age children (Rec- Y2) to spend approximately 1 hour a week doing homework. This is in line with the DFE guidelines that were issued in 1998. If they do more that is GREAT!!

We emphasise the importance of reading, therefore, we recommend that this is done every night by all year groups.

Foundation stage:

Reception

Reading (book)
Reading key or common words (e.g. 'the', 'a', 'where')
Phonics (letter sounds/diagraphs, e.g. 's' / 'ch')

KS1

Year 1:

Reading (book)
Reading key or common words (e.g. 'where', 'were', 'who', 'their', 'there')
Spellings (pattern, common, topic or subject words)
Maths using basic skills e.g. +/- securing, consolidating

Year 2:

Reading (book)
Spellings (pattern, common, topic or subject words) written in the context of a sentence
Maths securing, consolidating, extending basic skills, times tables
Topic (optional and related to termly topic theme)

KS2:

Reading (book)
Spellings (pattern, common, topic or subject words) written in the context of a sentence, finding/ writing word definitions (using a dictionary)
Maths securing, consolidating, extending skills, times tables
Topic (related to termly topic theme, e.g. research)

The children will be given one or a combination of the above to complete over the course of the week. The day for handing in homework will be advised by the class teacher. The level of challenge and amount will be determined by a child's age and stage of development. A child may be asked to complete some additional tasks to help him/her on a particular skill.

Top Tips...

We advise a little and often approach to practising key skills, such as reading, spelling and times tables. When reading, choose an appropriate time and quiet place so your child feels comfortable and is able to concentrate. If they are tired share a book together. It should be a pleasurable activity for all concerned- have fun and enjoy a book together! Please write a positive comment in your child's reading diary and/or homework book.

Whatever you can do really does make a difference. Children supported in their learning at home, especially reading, tend to make better progress.