



Glen Park Primary Homework Policy

Introduction

At Glen Park Primary we believe that homework is an essential part of a child's school life and forms a crucial link between home and school. Homework is an extension of school and is used to support what happens in the classroom. We use 'Learning Logs' across the school.

Children demonstrate their understanding of key learning questions from the week's work in class. These recording methods will vary in form, according to the focus in class, the age of the child and individual needs. The number of learning questions and amount of time children spend completing their learning logs will also vary.

All pupils have the right to equal access to home learning opportunities, as they do in all areas of education. We do, however, recognise that each home situation is different, and that parental involvement will vary as a result. Learning Logs are designed to be completed by children independently and at the level of the individual learner. It is important that parents get as involved as they can, discussing the learning questions and reading regularly with their children.

Aims

At Glen Park Primary we believe that Learning Logs:

- Enable children to extend and consolidate their learning in the classroom outside of school
- Encourage children to be creative and independent.
- Encourage children to be actively engaged in their own learning and take a pride in their work.
- Are child-directed, rather than teacher-directed and so give children 'ownership
- Are Inclusive' and cater for all abilities and learning styles.
- Help to develop a partnership between home and school.
- Can be a useful revision tool for children and assessment tool for teachers.

As Learning Logs are personalised there is no right or wrong way to approach a task.

Learning Logs

Learning Logs are provided for each child each year **from Years 1-6**. These are A3 sized, plain page books which we hope will last the entire school year.

Every week the children will be given set tasks which will be based around a key question, title or a learning objective that they should achieve. The activity will usually be relevant to their current class topic or a particular theme that has been covered during the week in class.

On some occasions the children may be given tasks to complete in preparation for topics/activities that are going to be covered in the future. The only stipulation is that the children must fit all the information they would like to present on no more than one double page of the journal. They can of course creatively extend the page by attaching flaps and folded sections.

The logs focus in developing children's creativity, independence and a love for learning. Each log is a unique record of the child's thinking and learning.

Every Friday, time is built into the class timetable for children to peer review their work and discuss the different approaches that have been carried out in completing the tasks. Learning logs have a high profile in school and we regularly celebrate children's good work and effort.

In foundation, parents are invited to share the activities and learning that their children participate in at home on their online learning journey, Tapestry.

Reading

Foundation Stage & Key Stage 1

There is an expectation that parents will promote reading at home to help children practice the skills they are learning at school. In foundation, children take home a book of interest from the class book corner and progress to also taking a book that they can read when they are ready. Foundation children also take home RWI sound sheets, Turtle words and Frog words to support early reading development. Children in Year 1 take home a levelled reading book which they may be able to read independently or may share with an adult. During the year, some Year 1 children will progress onto Accelerated Reader. A reading record allows for a dialogue between parent and teacher with regard to the child's developing ability in reading. As children progress through to year 2, many of them quickly complete the Read Write Inc programme and transfer to the spelling and comprehension programme, developing their skills of reading for meaning. At the start of Year 2, the children begin the Accelerated Reading scheme.

ACCELERATED READER (RENAISSANCE LEARNING)

This highly motivational reading programme is used right through the school from Year 1 – Year 6. Children take an online Star reading test at the beginning of each main term which provides a ZPD range from which children can select books. Books are all graded and managed in the library and all children are expected to read on a daily basis to support their development.

A designated teacher acts as AR manager and regularly provides teachers with updates on pupil progress. Statistics can identify specific areas of performance, which teachers can use. AR reading takes place once a day to allow children to access quizzes after completing a book. Teachers use AR reading sessions to read with children, discuss progress or provide motivational reminders.

Parents are also able to access their child's reading platform at home to see which books they have read, and progress made. Children are rewarded with certificates for making AR achievement and books.

Guidance on Time and Activities for each Year Group

Foundation Stage (EYFS)

Reading - We recommend that the children share a book with an adult on a daily basis and complete their RWI sound sheet when appropriate.

Year 1 and Year 2

Learning Log - These will be set weekly and tasks are age appropriate and based on their learning in school or key events throughout the term.

Spellings – In Year 1, key spellings are shared on the Learning Log homework sheet to support the spelling work the children have done in class that week. It is recommended that children have time to practice these through the week.

Reading - We continue to recommend that the children share a book with an adult on a daily basis, also discussing individual reading targets.

Years 3, 4, 5 and 6

Learning Log - These will be set weekly and should take an hour to complete, although the children will have the option to spend longer on their Learning Log. These will be age appropriate, and based on their learning in school, either as consolidation or as preparation for future work.

Reading - We continue to recommend that the children share a book or other text type e.g. newspaper etc. with an adult on a daily basis, also discussing individual reading targets provided by the teacher and linked to the Accelerated Reader scheme.

Spelling - At Glen Park Primary we use the RWInc Spelling Programme which is a natural progression from RWInc Phonics and supports the children in learning spelling rules and patterns as well as tackling more tricky words. In lessons we aim to give the children a range of strategies to learn and remember these. In order to help parents to support their children at home with their spellings on a weekly basis, the children will be given 6-8 spellings from the unit they are currently on which will follow a set pattern (these are explained at the bottom of each page in their Spelling Log Books). They will be tested on these the following week. In addition to these children will also be given 6 red or orange words to learn from the National Curriculum word lists which are words the children are expected to know for their age range. These were included in the transition booklet and are also listed in the back of their Spelling Log Book so children can keep overlearning them throughout the year.

Times Tables – Children are encouraged to learn their times tables which can be supported at home using the Times Tables Rockstar programme. All children from Y2 – Y6 have individual logins in order to access the online programme.

Holiday Homework

The staff and parents have agreed that holiday homework will not be set. However, should parents wish to complete projects etc. with their children, these will be welcomed into school and valued by the class teacher. These may take the form of reflecting on the previous terms work, or a holiday diary etc.

Pupils with Special Educational Needs

Children will be set learning log questions in accordance with recommendations for their year group, unless otherwise stated in their Individual Education Plan. Additional homework to support children with a particular difficulty may also be provided, where appropriate or at parental request.

Use of Technology

Many children have access to computers at home and may wish to use technology to support them in preparing or presenting their homework. Children will not get additional credit for using technology to support homework, but we encourage its use where available. Computer and internet access is available through homework club.

Communication

This policy has been created in conjunction with the parents of Glen Park Primary and as a result we consider the expectations to be fair for each age group across the school. However, it is important that Learning Logs do not become onerous or take up too much of a child's leisure time. If parents find that children are spending far more than the recommended times or that tasks are too difficult for their child/ren, they must discuss this with the class teacher as quickly as possible. Equally, teachers would value hearing about activities done at home which were greatly enjoyed or helped children to achieve success.

Homework club

We understand that there may be times where parents and children require resources to help them complete homework activities. In order to help with this, we run a weekly lunchtime homework club.

Reviewed: February 2018

Next Review: February 2021