

HOMEWORK POLICY

Definition

Homework is any work or activities which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents or carers.

The most valuable areas in which our children can be helped at home are reading, spelling, and times tables.

The purpose of homework changes as the children get older. Therefore at Key Stage One the emphasis is on developing a partnership with parents and involving them actively in their children's learning. At this stage the children will be working on key skills.

As children get older they will become more independent and develop more skills in the three core curriculum subjects of English, Maths and Science.

By the end of Key Stage Two the homework should cover a wider range of tasks and the children should be in the habit of devoting regular periods of time to study on their own. They will be expected to keep a homework diary.

Aims

To strengthen home-school links by:

- ensuring that parents have a clear understanding of what is expected from themselves and the pupil;
- providing opportunities for parents, pupils and school to work together in partnership;
- providing opportunities for parents to be actively involved in their child's learning.

To improve the quality of learning experiences of our pupils by:

- ensuring consistency of approach throughout the school;
- taking the individual needs of children into account;
- extending and supporting classroom experiences by reinforcing and revising them;
- enabling the children to progress towards becoming independent learners;
- preparing Year 6 pupils for secondary transfer.

Progression and Continuity

Reception

Children take a classroom library book and book banded reading book home each week to read with a parent. Approximately 10 high frequency words, (both decodable and tricky) are sent home per half-term for the children to practise reading and spelling. Extra words and captions are available if

appropriate and requested by parents. Guidance leaflets on how to support children with both reading and writing are sent home termly. Further advice is written in the child's reading record and parents are encouraged to write comments or questions in this also.

Numeracy targets with suggestions of activities to follow to meet these targets are sent home termly.

- Time spent: - approximately 10 minutes daily.

Year 1 and 2

Reading books are taken home as before. A book is read with an adult in school then sent home once per week.

Weekly spellings are set, appropriate to stage of learning.

Tasks related to topics will be set half-termly, e.g., to do research, find objects, prepare show and tell stories etc. Parents will be informed by letter.

Year 2 have an additional literacy and numeracy task per week.

- Time Spent:- 20 minutes reading daily
10 minutes for other activities when required.

Year 3

By this stage children should be taking more responsibility for changing reading books.

A spelling list of more challenging words from the Violet Brand Scheme will be sent home on a regular basis and tested a week after set. Topic words may also be set home and tested the following week.

Similarly times tables will be learned weekly.

Work related to the literacy hour will be set as appropriate and parents will be informed by letter as to the expectation of tasks.

Sometimes topic work or science tasks will be set e.g. research or finding objects or preparing a talk to the class.

- Time spent:- 20 minutes reading daily
20 minutes others

Year 4

By this stage children should be taking more responsibility for changing reading books and for making comments in their record books.

A spelling list of more challenging words from the Violet Brand Scheme will be sent home on a regular basis and tested a week after set. Topic words may also be set home and tested the following week.

Similarly times tables will be learned weekly.

Work related to the literacy hour, science, maths and topic will be set as appropriate and parents will be informed by letter as to the expectation of tasks. A deadline hand-in date will be given.

- Time spent:- 20 minutes reading daily
20 minutes others

Year 5 and 6

The Homework Diary will be introduced. Homework diaries should be kept up to date and regularly signed by parents.

Reading books should be travelling between home and school. Book reviews will be set from time to time and children will be expected to be able to discuss the reasons for their reading choices.

Spelling, tables and activities related to literacy, maths, science and topics will be set and a hand-in date given.

Sometimes, home based research tasks will be set that are linked to current class work. All homework should be neatly presented.

There are Transition Units which need to be completed when pupils move from primary school to secondary school. These Units of work are completed in the Summer Term; the focus of the Units is decided by school staff.

- Time spent:- 30 minutes reading daily
30 minutes others

Guidelines for Parents

The purpose of homework is to help your child become a better learner. It provides an opportunity for skills to be practised and to develop strategies towards independence. Homework is differentiated by outcome – this means that all children are set the same piece of work.

Reading is a fundamental skill and therefore should be a major part of your child's homework. Your role in developing your child into a confident reader is very important. Making the time to share books, talk about books, using books for real purposes with your child, is time well spent. Reading together should be enjoyable not a chore, an opportunity to do something together. As your child gets older and more skilled at reading, your role is still important. Discussing together the characters, the layers of meaning, the plot, the author's style, etc. you can enrich your child's understanding of the text. Understanding what you read is a vital skill.

You can take part in other activities too; science and maths opportunities can be found everywhere in the home, visits to the library and going on outings are all part of 'homework'.

You can help your child by;

- providing a quiet place where your child can work with you or when older where they can get on with homework alone
- showing that you value homework and support the school
- encouragement and praise for completing tasks
- checking homework diaries, to help them to plan when to do the homework in time for hand in dates and to help them become organised in their homework habits
- keeping in touch with school, if you have any worries, concerns or difficulties, ask!

The school will keep you informed by:-

- regular, termly letters, outlining homework issues, class topics and planned visits.
- reading records, they travel with your child - please write in them and check for messages from the class teacher
- homework diaries will have task and hand in date clearly shown
- letters and notes from the teacher

Please note; spellings and tables will be sent on set days each week.

Computers

Many families have computers at home and we welcome this. Children need to use and understand modern technology. However we discourage the use of wholesale computer generated text for extended study or topic research because it does not reflect the child's personal effort. Sometimes therefore, the teacher will indicate tasks that should not be done using the computer.

Guidelines for Staff

Do:-

- Give children and parents clear instructions about set tasks.
- Keep spellings and tables to a set schedule each week.
- Keep checking homework diaries and reading record books to see if parents are signing or sending messages.
- Insist on hand-in dates.
- Give realistic time scales for work to be done - many children have out of school activities to attend.
- Keep a record of homework set in your planning files.
- Allow for those children who have special needs.
- Inform parents if there is a problem with child's organisation.
- Use professional judgement about non-completion of work. Strike the balance between challenge and what is possible for that individual.
- Additional time will be found in school time for children who consistently do not complete their homework at home – (**NB** It is expected that Year 6 complete homework tasks as preparation for secondary school)

Don't

- Expect all children to have the same access to facilities - think about books etc. required.
- Overload the children.