

Home Learning Policy



March 2017

To be reviewed 2020 or as required

Home Learning describes work which is set to be completed outside the school timetable and represents an extension of the learning activities provided and organised through the school curriculum.

Rationale

At our school we believe that homework helps to create crucial links between learning in different contexts as well as development of independent learning behaviours. Home-School links are important to help each child achieve and in nurturing a positive learning community in which parents and carers feel valued and involved. The approach to homework varies throughout the school according to the age of the child, but at each level home-school links are vitally important in promoting success. Curriculum subject booklets which outline the key learning in year group are available from the school office. Children will be given a curriculum newsletter to take home every half term which outlines the learning in more detail.

Aims

To provide opportunities for parents, pupils and our school to work in partnership in order to:

- extend and support learning via reinforcement and revision
- ensure a co-ordinated approach throughout the school
- support progression towards independence, individual responsibilities and positive personalised learning behaviours
- ensure that parents have a clear understanding of curriculum expectations
- support and maintain the relevance and importance of school learning in the home context
- give parents positive opportunities and guidance when supporting their child's learning

Roles and responsibilities

The Head Teacher will ensure that homework is:

- an integral part of the curriculum and is planned and prepared alongside all other programmes of learning
- appropriate to the age, ability and circumstances of the pupils, taking into account special educational needs
- coordinated in order to be manageable for children on a daily, weekly and half termly basis informed by governmental guidance and expectations

Teachers need to:

- regard homework as part of the curriculum and plan accordingly
- set up clear classroom structures for the organisation and collection of homework, delegating to the Teaching Assistant as appropriate
- ensure homework is marked, delegating to the Teaching Assistant as appropriate but taking overall responsibility.
- keep a system of monitoring homework e.g. a register
- liaise with the learning mentor where children are repeat non returners
- check home reading record books and sign weekly

Pupils will be required to:

- demonstrate a commitment to completing the tasks set
- write in pencil or handwriting/ink pen
- present their work in line with presentation guidelines
- return their work on time
- answer green pen questions

Parents/carers will:

- make it clear to their children that they value home learning and are willing to support the school with their approach, including encouragement and praise
- ensure children take pride in their work and in their reading record book
- support children to plan their time and meet deadlines.
- give teachers any useful feedback which may include notes in the home school diary or verbal feedback
- provide a suitable place in which homework can be completed, whether working alone or with an adult
- check/support children in recording their reading in their diaries

Special Educational Needs

Our expectations apply equally to children with recognised special educational needs. However, the children will receive differentiated tasks according to their needs, and reasonable adjustments will be made to support and include them. In this way we hope to promote success and learning for all. Home-school link books are maintained for some children who need extra help and serve to increase the communication between parents and school staff.

Online Learning

In addition to set homework children are also provided with logons and passwords to online learning platforms such as Mathletics. These additional learning resources can be accessed from any computer with internet access.

Following e-safety guidelines, we ask parents/carers to ensure that computers with access to the internet are located in a family room where they can monitor their child's use of internet sites.

Nursery

In Nursery, children are learning about the world around them through play and activity. They can best be supported through conversation and 'real' experience.

- Parents will receive regular 'Curriculum Newsletters' to keep them informed about what is being taught.
- Two reading books will be sent home weekly to be read with parents. Parents are expected to record this in the child's reading record book.
- Through discussions with the class teacher a range of suitable activities will be suggested for home-learning.
- Each holiday, a practical task will be set and the work will be displayed in classrooms.

Reception

- Children take two reading books home each week. These books should be early reading books which allow the parent to support their child in building key reading skills. Parents are expected to record this in the child's reading record book.
- A literacy task linked to the class' current book is set weekly
- A numeracy task is set weekly
- Each holiday, a practical task will be set and the work will be displayed in classrooms.
- Where appropriate, maths games may be sent home for pupils to play with their families.

Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2)

Key Stage 1 homework is aimed at encouraging the child to build up enthusiasm towards learning and to develop a positive self-image. It is important that all writing is completed in

pencil and **not** pens, biro or felt tip pens. Presentation of work is important for children to have pride in their work.

Literacy

In Year 1 and 2 children will be set weekly written home learning tasks linked to the week's learning. Parents are asked to read with their child daily. Sharing books, reading aloud and hearing stories are crucial in developing good reading habits and related skills.

In Year 2 children's reading can be extended by:

- Re-telling in sequence the story they have read
- Describing favourite parts of the story
- Predicting what will happen next based on the front cover
- Discussing characters actions, feelings and emotions and related it to self-experience and understanding.

In Year 1 and 2 children are given weekly spellings to learn at home using the '*look, say, cover, write, check*' method. They are tested on these each week. Parents can support children with spellings by asking them to put the words into a sentence verbally and then write the sentence out.

Fine motor skills/handwriting

Children who need to develop their fine motor skills will be provided with resources which will support them with writing. These will be given on a half termly basis and more often if needed.

Numeracy

In Year 1 and 2 children will be given a weekly numeracy task to complete. Children will benefit from supported experiences such as reading the time from a clock, counting money while shopping and weighing and measuring when cooking. All board games and card games are helpful in encouraging children to use mental and problem solving skills.

Each half term, a practical task will be set in numeracy and literacy. These are designed to make links between real life contexts and the pupils' learning at school and are not recorded formally in books. For example, pupils may be asked to record the amount of vehicles they see on a main road in a tally chart or draw a set of directions to the park from their house.

Where appropriate, maths games may be sent home for pupils to play with their families.

Key Stage 2 (Years 3 to 6)

Children will be set weekly literacy and numeracy tasks. In addition to that, they are expected to practise the following at home:

- Learning multiplication facts (times tables)
- Spellings
- Reading

Children will be given spellings weekly and these will be tested. Children are expected to read at home every day. Parents should hear their children read **frequently** and record any comments or observations in reading record books. It is the expectation that class teachers will monitor the use of these books and support children in selecting appropriate home reading materials.

Each half term, a practical task will be set in numeracy and literacy. These are designed to make links between real life contexts and the pupils' learning at school and are not recorded formally in books. For example, pupils may be asked to interview a family member on a

topic, draw an object or building from observation or work out the cost of a number of items in a local shop.

Time should be made to discuss all aspects of the school curriculum. We encourage parents to ask children what they have 'learned' rather than what they 'did' during the school day and to support their child in developing a routine of completing and returning homework within the expected timeframe given.

Marking

All homework will be marked. Homework marking where necessary may have a question which children should answer in green pen. All children from Years 1 to 6 will be provided with homework 'packs' which will include a green pen in order to respond to marking questions.

Holiday homework projects

Children will be given a homework pack each holiday. This will include literacy, numeracy and reading tasks as well as a topic or science task involving research. Visits to the library, museums, galleries and other places of interest as well as internet research are encouraged. Children will be provided with information to support their research if they do not have access to the internet at home.

Practical homework projects will be set during some holidays according to the upcoming curriculum topic theme. Projects are designed to enable all pupils to achieve. Guidance on each project will be given to pupils and parents. Parents can support children with these projects by helping children to find relevant information and objects.

The school will act to ensure that the number of activities sent home is proportionate to the length of the holiday.

Equal Opportunities

Homework is designed so that the child can complete it independently. Additional support is offered through web resources linked through the school website.

Monitoring

Monitoring of homework will take place half termly and work samples shared to develop good practise. Monitoring will be carried out by phase leaders.

Recognition

Celebration of homework will take place half termly through assemblies and certificates. Practical homework will be kept on display in classrooms to highlight effort and achievement.

Related Documents

- Teaching & Learning Policy
- Marking & Presentation Policy
- Curriculum Framework
- Equal Opportunities Policy
- SEN Policy
- Numeracy Policy
- Literacy Policy
- Parent Partnership Policy