

Homework Policy



Approved by the governing body on:-	
Signed (Chair of Governors)	
Review Date	September 2020

Homework Policy

	<p>Foreword</p> <p>The school policy for homework has the full agreement of the governing body.</p>
	<p>Introduction</p> <p>We believe in promoting a partnership with parents in the education of their children. The activities we suggest for homework provide valuable opportunities to reinforce key skills and extend wider learning. So work at home is seen as an important method of consolidating a habit of learning and a learning connection between home and school.</p> <p>We recognise the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development. Whilst the expectation of activities to be completed at home helps to establish responsibility and routine, it should not prevent children from taking part in a wide range of out of school activities which play an important part in the lives of children developing confidence and raising self-esteem.</p> <p>To this end, we recognise that children work incredibly hard at school and need time at home to assimilate the information they have learned during the day and enjoy other activities. Therefore we do not intend homework to be stressful or to put the child or parent under pressure. If this is the case, home:school communication is encouraged to rectify the issues.</p> <p>We believe the purpose of homework is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reinforce an effective partnership between the school and home;• Encourage independence and individual responsibility;• Consolidate the acquisition of key skill in English and maths;• Extend the learning experiences accessible to pupils;• Provide opportunities for parents and their children to learn together;• Provide opportunities for parents and their children to talk and to listen;• Encourage pupils as they get older to develop the confidence and self discipline needed to study on their own, and preparing them for the requirements of secondary education.
	<p>Organisation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A Homework Overview will be sent just after the first week of a full term.• Each child will be provided with access to appropriate reading books and a reading record to note the reading completed.• All children should have the opportunity to read regularly, sharing this with an adult. This can be sharing or discussing a book with an adult, reading to an adult or listening to a story and can be a school book, child's own book or a library book.• When reading has been completed, parents will be expected to sign or comment to that effect.• Reading is expected to be completed weekly, at least 3-4 times a week - a daily habit is the goal.

- Maths key skills via the provided apps will be expected to be completed weekly and these can be tracked in school via log-on rate.
- Children will be given a deadline for returning extended homework.
- If homework is not completed regularly, teachers will speak to a child's parents.
- If homework is not completed, where appropriate, children may be asked to complete it during break time.

Expectations of Pupils

Children are encouraged to:

- Read for pleasure and share a book with their parents/carers
- Reinforce language skills or practise using sounds learnt in phonics
- Spend time learning and practising number and times tables
- Practise and investigate what has been learnt in school



Our homework is split into three focus areas:

Non-Negotiables	We believe that the basic skills are the ones that we should be practising at home so that they become a habit of life. That way, they should not be seen as a task or chore, but simply as an interest or game.
Class Story	We want lots and lots of talk time at home to improve our speaking and listening skills, help remember, explore and learn more so we will post photos of what we get up to, ideas or links to our project on Class Dojo.
Project Tasks	We believe that learning 'sticks' best when it connects, is rehearsed and is explored based on personal interest and skill set, with an element of choice and purpose thrown in to motivate

We believe that these activities will fit into family life with greater ease and promote the learning in a more purposeful way. These are achieved by:

Non-Negotiables (1) Reading	Read, read, read - a school book, home book, newspaper, subtitles or comic and jot it in your reading record
Non-Negotiables (2) Log-on	Log-on to our apps for educational 'device time' to practise our reading and maths key skills. Details are sent separately, including usernames and passwords (Y1-6)
Class Story	Check your connection to Class Dojo and check the class posts to encourage talk time at home – an informal means of connecting
Project Tasks	Complete two tasks linked to the class theme – these are totally your choice! It could be artwork, creating an artefact, a video, dance or song to display in a Project Gallery for parents to visit.



	<p><u>Please note:</u></p> <p>As our early years Reception children are beginning to develop their early reading and phonics skills, we will send a sounds book and words home to support this learning.</p> <p>Children in Year 5 and 6 will have additional expectations in order to prepare, particularly the Year 6 children, for SATs and secondary readiness.</p>
	<p>The Role of Parents</p> <p>Parents will be encouraged to provide a reasonably peaceful, suitable place in which pupils can do their homework.</p> <p>Parents will be encouraged to value our message to reinforce key skills and support the school in explaining how it can help their learning. While we would expect parents to take an interest, support and guide children when completing tasks, they should not complete these for their children.</p> <p>Parents will be asked to encourage their children and praise them when they have completed their homework.</p> <p>Parents will be encouraged to comment in homework diaries to allow parents the opportunity to feedback to staff any appropriate comments which will enable the child to move forwards and be supported.</p> <p>Parents can also help with a range of learning opportunities, which whilst not formally set, help wider learning such as visiting the library, talking about activities at home eg cooking, news events, helping tell the time or using money and encouraging independence eg children should be helped to tie their own shoe laces, get dressed by themselves, prepare their bag for school etc.</p> <p>If parents require more homework for their children, there are a wealth of high quality publications that can be purchased for the appropriate year group in Maths, English and Science and there are a multitude of useful websites to explore online. Class teachers are able to advise parents if necessary.</p>
	<p>Monitoring Homework</p> <p>School will monitor the effectiveness of this homework strategy in order to assess whether or not the school's approach to homework is meeting pupils' needs.</p>