

Homework Policy September 2020

In order that our pupils can attain the highest standard, we recognise the crucial importance of an active educational partnership between home and school. Homework is just one of the ways in which we seek to foster this partnership. Homework encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents to support children's learning.

Aims and Objectives

Regular, well planned homework can:

- Enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development;
- Develop good work habits and self-discipline for the future
- Encourage skills and attitudes which help children improve their educational performance
- Help parents gain insight into their child's schoolwork and promote partnership between home and school.
- Provide opportunities for individualised work and develop skills of independent learning
- To consolidate and reinforce learning completed in school and assist in preparation for future class work.
- Provide opportunities to extend new learning E.g. Complete homework projects linked to the topic being taught
- Provide a context for pupil/parent interaction.

Homework is seen as 'an essential part of good education that supports children's development as independent learners'. We believe that homework is one of the main ways in which children can acquire the skill of independent learning.

There are also opportunities for parents/carers to work alongside their child or children. This is because we want to work as a partnership in your child's learning - school, the child and their parents working together to help your child to reach their full potential.

When teachers set homework they will ensure that:

- It is always clearly related to current areas of study within the classroom.
- The task is made clear to children and matched to their abilities, especially for those pupils with special educational needs. Time scales for completion and submission are explicit.
- Work is marked and any feedback needed is given to children.
- Problems or difficulties encountered by children are dealt with swiftly.
- Regular completion of homework of a high standard is recognised and celebrated.
- The impact of homework upon the standards of children's attainment is monitored.
- All children will be expected to complete tasks. They will be given an opportunity to succeed in this through using a homework session in school leisure time if they continually fail to complete it.

Our Expectations

The table below provides details of the agreed amount of homework for children. Work is either marked by an adult or marked with the children

| | Reading | Spelling | Maths | SPaG |
|--------|--|---|--|--|
| LFS | Story sacks and Busy Bags available for parents Library books available for parents to read with their child. Speech and language activities to support SALT interventions in Nursery. | | | |
| UFS | 3 times a week for at least 10 minutes Reading book or own reading material | Phonic pack task linked to weekly input | Mental maths target as outlined by the class teacher in the homework pack and appropriate calculation task. | N/A |
| Year 1 | 3 times a week for at least 15 minutes Reading book or own reading material | Phonic/spelling task linked to weekly input | Maths activity linking to weekly topic/skill and times table activity in homework pack. | Practise sheets as needed |
| Year 2 | 4 times a week for at least 15 minutes Reading book or own reading material | Spelling pack task linked to weekly input | Mental maths target and times table challenges as outlined by the class teacher in the homework pack. | Task linked to English unit coverage as needed. |

Children in UFS and KS1 will all be given a half termly homework project linked to the new topic they will be covering in class, which can be presented in a format of their choice. It will allow children to develop their creativity in how they wish to present their work and give them the freedom in developing the aspects of the research that particularly interests them. The children are then given an opportunity to present their work to the class through a speaking and listening session which celebrates their work with others. For example, projects about 'Ourselves' or 'Great Fire of London'.

Homework is handed out on a Friday in each year group and is expected to be handed in by Friday of the following week, in order it can be checked by an adult and any problems addressed. Reading records will be checked on a weekly basis to ensure parents/carers have signed to show children have achieved their weekly reads.

Children will be given a week to complete their homework tasks over in order they do not feel overwhelmed and can complete the required amount in small quantities.

Homework is posted on Seesaw on a Friday in each year group and is expected to be completed by the morning of the following Friday.

Each year group holds a homework club during lunchtime, where there is an opportunity for children to ask questions, seek help or have just a quiet place to complete their tasks.

Children will be required to attend their year group homework club during their own time to complete homework tasks.

Rewards for completing homework

Children who complete their homework will be rewarded with 'Dojo's' which result in class rewards chosen by the children and for completing 3 reads a week a special reading sticker.

We encourage all children to complete set homework tasks as this benefits not only the individual, but develops independence. It helps children to take responsibility for their own learning outside the classroom. Allowing one child to opt out of doing homework whilst everyone else is expected to complete it causes bad feeling amongst a class. We therefore make it very clear that we expect everyone to be treated equally and all children are expected to complete homework tasks.

When a child is unable or unwilling to complete homework tasks, a conversation will be held with the child and the parents to try to reach a mutual agreement.

Our staff hope that you can support us in getting the balance right. We want to work together with you to do help your child be the best they can possibly be and reach their full potential. If you have any concerns about the homework set, please make an appointment to see your child's teacher.

Policy to be reviewed in July 2021