

‘Let your light shine’ Matthew 5:16

The purpose of homework is:

- To consolidate and reinforce children's skills, knowledge and understanding, particularly in Literacy and Numeracy.
- To extend children's opportunities for learning beyond school.
- To encourage children as they grow older to develop the confidence and self discipline to study independently.
- To provide opportunities for children, parents and the school to work in partnership.
- To prepare children in Year 6 for transfer to High School.

We recognise that the purpose of homework may change as children grow older. In the Early Years and at Key Stage 1 the emphasis is placed upon developing partnership with parents and carers and involving them actively in children's learning. During Key Stage 2 there is greater emphasis upon providing opportunities for children to develop skills of learning on their own.

How much homework?

Whilst we appreciate the value of homework, it is equally important that children of all ages need time to develop through a wide range of activities such as play, participating in clubs etc. It is therefore important that children are not overburdened with formal homework. As a rough guide we recommend that children might be asked to spend the following amount of time doing homework:

YR	There is no set time for children in reception class but we ask that the children do 10 minutes reading.
Y1	10 minutes reading each night, 1 short maths/literacy/topic task and spelling or handwriting once a week
Y2	10 minutes reading each night and a 20 minute written task once a week (alternate literacy/grammar and numeracy) in turn. Spellings each week.
Y3	15 minutes reading each night, talk for writing and spellings once a week and 20 minutes literacy or numeracy once a week.
Y4	15 minutes reading each night, 20 minutes literacy and 20 minutes numeracy once a week (to include talk for writing).
Y5	15 minutes reading each night , 30 minutes literacy(cross curricular/creative) and 30 minutes numeracy each week
Y6	20 minutes reading each night, 40 minutes literacy and 40 minutes numeracy each week

Y1 upwards also get spellings to learn each week.

Children may occasionally be asked to complete work in other subjects such as finding out about class topics.

Homework is recorded in the home school diary or homework folder weekly.

Children with special educational needs

It is important that children with special educational needs have an opportunity to benefit from homework appropriate to their needs. This may mean that some children are asked to do homework which is separate from the homework set for the rest of the class. It is, however important that homework may be common where possible. Homework should not be used as a means of attempting to get children with special educational needs to "catch up to" the rest of the class.

Who will set it?

The class teacher will set homework.

Feedback on homework

It is important that homework tasks are worthwhile tasks and that children receive feedback on their work wherever possible. Homework should be returned on time for work to be marked and new homework to be set. Home work may be marked by the teacher, teaching assistant or the children themselves depending on the task. Teachers will monitor all homework, celebrating success and addressing any issues that may arise.

Homework not completed

If homework is not completed or handed in, or of an inappropriate standard, then parents will receive a note informing them of the issue. It may be necessary for the child to complete during part of lunchtime if progress is affected. If homework is taking longer than the expected time, parents are asked to inform the teacher. A lunchtime homework club is run for children who wish to complete homework at school. It is held in the ICT suite so there is access to computers and the internet.

Partnership with parents

Class teachers will provide parents with guidance about how they can help their children at home. The children in reception and Year 1 have an exercise book which serves as a reading diary and home/school contact book. Parents should use this to feedback comments on the homework and to send messages to the teacher. The teacher will use it to communicate with parents. Literacy and Numeracy targets are sent home at the beginning of each half term. At the beginning of each term teachers communicate with parents about the topics and themes the class will be studying. All this information is also available on the website.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Headteacher will monitor the impact of homework through:

- Discussion with teachers
- Discussion with a sample of pupils
- Looking at a sample of home/school contact books.

In the light of information gathered the policy will be evaluated in terms of:

- How manageable it is
- The impact on children's attitude to learning
- The impact upon children's progress.