

‘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 English/grammar and numeracy) in turn.  |
| Y3 | 15 minutes reading each night, talk for writing once a week and 20 minutes English or mathematics once a week.            |
| Y4 | 15 minutes reading each night, 20 minutes English and 20 minutes mathematics once a week (to include talk for writing).   |
| Y5 | 15 minutes reading each night, 30 minutes English (may be cross curricular/creative) and 30 minutes mathematics each week |
| Y6 | 20 minutes reading each night, 40 minutes English and 40 minutes mathematics each week                                    |

Y1 upwards also get spellings to learn each week.

Children may occasionally be asked to complete work in other subjects such as research linking to a class topics.

**Use of electronic and online resources**

As a school, we have access to numerous online resources and websites we can use as homework to support children's learning such as:

- Spag.com

- Education City
- Mathletics
- Times Tables Rockstars
- IDL
- Purple Mash
- Spelling Shed

Homework will frequently be set via these websites and all children have individual log in details for each website. Using these online resources provides fun, engaging and differentiated homework that also gives instant feedback to the teacher once the homework is completed.

### **How and when will homework be set**

Homework will be uploaded to each individual class webpage on a Wednesday. This may include links to one of the websites above, instructions for a task or an attachment to an activity.

During the academic year of 2020-21 we are also using Seesaw to communicate the homework tasks. Again, homework links, instructions and activities will be posted to the children and parents via Seesaw on a Wednesday. We are encouraging the children to complete their homework and post a photo of their work to Seesaw where the teacher or teaching assistant will acknowledge and respond. This is to restrict the amount of paper-based work and folders being brought to and from school and home.

### **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 acknowledge 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.

### **Covid19 2020-21 changes**

Due to Covid19, changes have been made this year to restrict the amount of paper-based homework. Homework will be put on the class webpage and posted on Seesaw each week (see details above). There will not be any homework folders or books being transferred too and from school until further notice. Children should complete their homework tasks electronically or take a photo of their work and post to Seesaw to show their teacher they have completed the task. Some class teachers have given the children a homework book to complete their work if there is no facility to print worksheets at home. This should still stay at home and a photo of the work should be uploaded to Seesaw.

### **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.

Reviewed September 2020