



Policy for Homework

2016 Revision

Introduction

It is a government policy that all schools should set homework for their pupils. At our school we strongly believe that homework should have a direct relevance to the work the children cover in their work in school and that it should strengthen the links between the children's learning and their understanding of its place in the world in which they live. We also believe that homework should be structured in such a way that parents, carers and other family members can all fully participate in the children's education. Our homework policy focuses on the basic skills a child needs in order to tackle some of the more complex applied skills we develop in class.

Weekly homework

Homework is set every week on a Wednesday and should be completed by the following Monday. This will give families the flexibility to choose the most appropriate time to do the homework according to other commitments. The children have a Homework book into which is glued the homework activity list. All three activities should be completed.

In exceptional cases, for some children with Special Needs, some of the homework may be adapted or alternative activities may be given, to meet the needs of the specific child. This may include general handwriting, word or number work which will help the child in the daily work of the classroom.

Homework forms an integral part of the work covered in the classroom. Children may be asked to feed back what they have learnt from the activities completed at home to begin particular lessons, for example.

Early Years Foundation Stage

Reading

It is very important that - at home - adults read **to** their child daily. Children will also be encouraged to read at home **with** an adult. This can include their reading book, Bug Club books, library or home books. Parents or carers are asked to record this in the Reading Record. Any individual reading with an adult in school will be recorded and teachers will make a weekly comment in the record too.

Spelling

The sounds and words for the week will be given and the children will be asked to practise reading, writing and word building with these letters (and previous letters). Spellings will be tested in school. Initially this will be writing letter sounds, but will move towards full words as the year progresses.

Maths

Children's basic number skills will be developed. Recognition of numerals, ordering numbers and number facts will all be covered.

Key Stage 1 -Year 1 & 2

Each week the homework will focus on key reading, writing and maths skills.

Children will be encouraged daily with an adult, this can include their reading book, Bug Club books, library or home books. Parents are asked to record this in the Reading Record. Any individual reading with an adult in school will be recorded and teachers will look at the records and make comments every three weeks. It is still very important to read to your child; choose a favourite story or extend their understanding by reading a book they would not be able to read themselves.

Reading

Examples might include –

- Finding words in their reading – particular sounds, tricky, rhyming and story language words
- Reading focus for a particular skill – find your favourite character in a book, drawing and writing about why they like them, answer some questions about the book you are presently reading, a word search

Spelling

Examples include –

- Learning key words (again, tricky words, sounds and story words, and using them in sentences)
- Making a poster, invitation or list
- Playing or making a word game

Spellings lists will also sent home to learn each week. These words will be tested in class in the week following the homework set.

Maths

Examples include –

- Learning the 'first' times tables (2, 5 and 10 times tables)
- Learning basic number facts (e.g. additions to 10, 100)
- Learning or practising counting skills

Key Stage 2 – Years 3 - 6

It is important to develop a habit of completing homework particularly in the last years of primary school in preparation for transition to secondary school. There will be three activities: spelling, maths and either a grammar or reading activity.

Maths

Homework is set each week by the class teacher (or maths group teacher in years 5 and 6). This piece of homework will be to practise skills the children have been learning in the week, such as tables, practising percentages or fractions, or counting with larger numbers.

Reading

Examples include -

- Writing about a character in their reading book
- Drawing a map of the setting in the book
- Writing a book review.

We know that the more children read, the better their comprehension and writing skills are. It also benefits skills in other curriculum areas. Therefore, the more your child can read at home or can read with you, the better. Three times a week should be the minimum. It is still important throughout the primary years to read to your child – a bedtime story is ideal. There are plenty of books in the library which our librarians could recommend as ideal for your child's age group. Please make sure that the reading with your child is recorded in the Reading Record.

Grammar

With the new Spelling and Grammar test in Year 6, children may be asked to complete a given grammar exercise (e.g. correct some sentences with the appropriate punctuation) to help them learn or revise some key concepts.

Spelling

Spellings lists will also sent home to learn each week. The words will include High Frequency Words as well as words with particular spelling rules (e.g. plurals) or letter strings (e.g. –ant or -ent). These words will be tested in class in the week following the homework set.

Frequently asked questions

- *How long should my child spend on their homework each week?*

We do not expect any particular amount of time to be spent on homework; rather, we leave this up to the discretion of the adult who signs the homework sheet. After working on a particular activity with the child, it should seem appropriate when to stop – sometimes the child may want to spend a longer amount of time on a project as it has captured their interest. At other times it is sufficient to finish a given homework when it appears that the child has fulfilled the basic requirements of the activity. It is probably more beneficial to the child that homework does not become a laborious chore but something which can be enjoyed with the adult with whom they work.

- *Which activities need to be recorded in the homework book?*

Use the homework book to show how you have been learning and practising the skills set (e.g. spelling lists, times tables games). For some activities, or with younger children, you might like to draw pictures or stick photographs in the book.

- *Should I work with my child whilst they do their homework?*

It depends on the age and the independence of the child. Most children would be unable to organise or motivate themselves without parental involvement. As your child gets older,

they may wish to work on their own and then it may be appropriate simply to discuss what they are about to do or to review what they have done at the end.

- *Is my child allowed to work with their friends on a piece of homework?*

Of course, but parents/carers are expected to initiate and talk about the homework with their child. It is, however, important that an adult reads with the child, to support accurate reading skills.

- *Why hasn't the homework been marked?*

All homework is marked if the work has been handed to the class teacher on time. Occasionally, you may notice that the teacher has simply signed and dated the work. This is to acknowledge that work was completed, but had been handed in after the deadline e.g. If the child had been ill or on holiday on the day the work should have been handed in.

EXAMPLE: Year 5 homework

Date: Wednesday 2nd October (Return by Monday 7th October)

1. Spellings (Must be learned for testing on Monday)

Easier	-tion	-cian
Because	Station	Optician
Come	Portion	magician
Was	Ration	electrician
Going	Motion	
Said	Lotion	
people		

Subjects	Activity	Signature and optional comment																						
2. Reading	<p>Make sure you are read with your child every day. On one of these days, please think about the following task:</p> <p>Talk about what you liked and maybe what you disliked about the part you read. Make a list of these things. Try to explain why you thought the way you did.</p>																							
3. Maths	<p>This week learn these number facts. They will be tested on Monday.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Easier</th> <th>Harder</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>2 x 1 =</td><td>7 x 1 =</td></tr> <tr><td>2 x 2 =</td><td>7 x 2 =</td></tr> <tr><td>2 x 3 =</td><td>7 x 3 =</td></tr> <tr><td>2 x 4 =</td><td>7 x 4 =</td></tr> <tr><td>2 x 5 =</td><td>7 x 5 =</td></tr> <tr><td>2 x 6 =</td><td>7 x 6 =</td></tr> <tr><td>2 x 7 =</td><td>7 x 7 =</td></tr> <tr><td>2 x 8 =</td><td>7 x 8 =</td></tr> <tr><td>2 x 9 =</td><td>7 x 9 =</td></tr> <tr><td>2 x 10 =</td><td>7 x 10 =</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Easier	Harder	2 x 1 =	7 x 1 =	2 x 2 =	7 x 2 =	2 x 3 =	7 x 3 =	2 x 4 =	7 x 4 =	2 x 5 =	7 x 5 =	2 x 6 =	7 x 6 =	2 x 7 =	7 x 7 =	2 x 8 =	7 x 8 =	2 x 9 =	7 x 9 =	2 x 10 =	7 x 10 =	
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