



## Homework Policy

The school recognises that well organised homework should play a vital role in raising standards of achievement by all pupils. However we believe that learning is best encouraged where there is partnership between parents and school and where children are actively involved in the learning process. It is in this context that homework is set. This partnership is outlined in the Home School Agreement policy.

Out of school activities and membership of youth organisations, for example, swimming clubs, Brownies/ Cubs, church activities, playing, and having tea with friends and family life are valued by the school as part of the children's development and learning. The type and frequency of our requests for children to work at home should take this into consideration.

### Aim of homework

We wish to foster a positive attitude towards work whether at school or home and to work in partnership with parents in bringing this about. It is expected that children may need encouragement and help with their homework, and we encourage work to be shared with parents/ carers.

In order to be effective homework should be appropriate to the needs of the individual. It should also be linked to current teaching and learning. The work set will centre round supporting the work done in class.

### Nature of homework

Different homework activities will be set to:

- provide opportunities to practice;
- develop, extend or reinforce skills learnt;
- give the child the opportunities to share their learning at home;
- encourage independent learning;
- prepare them for secondary school.

Children in all key stages benefit from regular reading, and we encourage parents to help their children to read at home. In the early years children are encouraged to share books with their parents. This might be the child reading to the helper, the helper reading to the child, or talking about the story and pictures together. As the children get older, children are encouraged to read to themselves as well as with their parents/carers. It is still important to read to older children including Y6 whatever their standard of reading.

Children will be encouraged to follow any curiosity and interest that their work at school raises. They may also be asked to research specific topics in a directed way, e.g. to look out for patterns round the home; find out how many hours an individual at home watches TV, spends exercising, sleeping; to bring in a photograph of a happy memory; visit a library.

Some of the homework activities involve the child interacting with an adult in a game or puzzle, and there may not be any recording in writing. This does not make the activity less valuable. There is much that a child learns from playing card or board games at home and we wish to encourage parents and friends to enjoy playing games with the children.

At other times the child may be asked to record their work; for children who find writing difficult they can choose how they present this information. They will also be asked to practise at home English and maths skills such as those involved in learning spelling and multiplication tables.

We are aware of the pressure of time that sharing books and playing games with a child brings, especially if there is more than one child needing attention. Please involve other siblings and friends. Children can share books and play games with their siblings, and there may be some

evenings when family life takes over completely. Please do not worry about an occasional missed reading session. The homework tasks will have a timetable for setting and responding to the work in class, so you will be able to plan these activities into your busy week when it is most convenient for you.

All children will record their homework in their homework books on days agreed with the class teacher. Parents will be asked to check the book for information. This provides a useful communicative link between home and school and parents are welcome to comment in them. A note indicating if a child struggled with the work is particularly helpful. We expect that the children will have their homework books with them each day.

Homework tasks may take a number of forms. Parents will be asked to read with their children (from R through to Y6) on a daily basis as much as possible. A homework grid will be produced at the beginning of each term that outlines the homework to be undertaken giving time scales. Other homework may also be set throughout the week.

We are aware of the individual needs of the children and so some tasks may be arranged for individuals regarding specific learning targets appropriate to the child's individual needs rather than the year group activities.

Similarly able children may be asked to develop some work further.

#### Parental Involvement

We ask parents/carers to work along side their children, supporting them. It would also be helpful if adults support and encourage the children by:

- making it clear to the child that homework is valued,
- explaining to the child that the work will support, extend or consolidate their learning,
- praising the child when homework is completed,
- praising them for effort made
- finding a reasonably peaceful place where the child can do/share their homework with their helper.
- good presentation should be encouraged but it is not necessary to re write as a top copy

Children who are ill will not be expected to complete the homework missed, unless they want to!

In return the school will provide regular homework activities in line with this policy, will follow up the work set, ensure that the work is differentiated appropriately and monitor this policy.

#### Monitoring

Class teachers will monitor the completion of homework. Children are expected to complete the tasks set. If your child is having difficulty either with the tasks or the amount of time spent, please come in and discuss this with the class teacher. Similarly the class teacher may wish to discuss the child's homework with parents/carers. The Headteacher and all the teachers are always happy to discuss children's work and progress with parents and carers.

Revised September 14 and October 15

Next review September 17