

Home Learning Policy

'To Be the Best You Can be'

'Let your light shine before others; that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven.' Matthew 5:16

Our Aim and Purpose of Home Learning

Our aim is to educate, inspire and nurture every child to have the confidence and skills to excel in their achievements and reach their full potential. We recognise the valuable part that homework can play in achieving this, alongside the many other rich and varied experiences that children enjoy outside of school. Homework works best when supported by parents/carers and valued by teachers.

We believe the purpose of homework is to practise and reinforce classroom learning and to give children the opportunity to develop independent learning skills and responsibility.

In addition, it prepares them for secondary education understanding the need to take ownership of their learning and organising their personal time.

Weekly Home Learning of Core Skills

Reading

Our aim is for all children to develop a love of reading and take pleasure in immersing themselves in a good book. However, we recognise that this takes time and does not happen automatically for all children. Learning to read is often challenging and requires regular practice. Research shows what a positive impact practice at home can make for all children of all ages.

The focus in Foundation Stage is primarily the acquisition of phonics knowledge through practising the letter sounds and words learnt in school that week. Decodable reading books are sent home for practice, as the children are ready. Weekly home-learning sheets are sent home so children can pre-learn the phonics and tricky words for the following week.

Our expectation is that children will read at home at least three times per week; for younger children this will be to an adult; older children may read independently but should be asked about their reading by an interested adult. For younger early readers, a reading book will be sent home that is closely matched to the phonics sounds the child has learned and practised in school. For older children, they may read a book of their own from home, or one chosen from the school library. Parents/carers and children are encouraged to record their reading - simply the date and pages read - in a reading record book, which is monitored by the class teacher on a weekly basis. Children meeting school expectations for practising reading will receive a Dojo each week. If a child is not meeting this expectation, then support will be given through encouragement and if necessary, consequences (see below regarding actions taken if homework is not completed).

Spelling

Children in Years 2 to 6 are taught spelling rules and associated strategies regularly in school. The spelling rule being taught and associated example words are communicated to parents at the start of each unit. Weekly spelling lists are shared with children and parents, to be practised at home and

applied in a weekly dictation. This is to check that the child can apply each spelling in context and as part of on-going tracking for each child's progress. In Year 1 children are given a short list of common words to learn to spell at home each week.

Maths Facts

All children are expected to learn and practise Key Instant Recall Facts for Mathematics. These are described for each year group in a termly publication to parents/carers.

Foundation Stage (from the Spring Term,) Year 1 and 2 are asked to spend 15 mins a week using Numbots. Years 3 to 6 (Year 2 from the Summer Term) should practise their timetables using Timestable Rockstars for a period of 15 minutes a week. The Class teacher will state the area of focus and monitor.

Termly Home Learning

Each Year group will receive a bank of suggested learning activities that support the curriculum for that term. (See Appendix 1 for an example of a termly home learning sheet.) It offers a wide range of activities appealing to the range of interests and learning styles of individuals. It is suggested that a minimum of three tasks are completed and will be rewarded with Dojos and a short piece of feedback from the class teacher. If a child does not submit any home learning, a discussion with parents will take place to understand why. It may be suggested that the child uses their break/lunch to complete the prescribed amount.

English and Maths set pieces for Year 6

In preparation for a more extensive homework programme in secondary school, our Year 6 pupils receive both Literacy and Maths homework weekly based around learning already practised in school, i.e. consolidation of previous learning. This homework is generally given out across the week e.g. Maths on Mondays, Comprehension on Tuesdays. The subject specific homework is then expected back the following week. Homework is marked as a class and any misconceptions are discussed with teachers and peers.

School Support with Home learning

It is expected that children complete their homework in a set time. This ensures pupils gain valuable experience of working to a deadline. Where children do not complete weekly homework in the given time, they will be expected to complete it during their own playtime. We try to ensure that instructions concerning homework are clear to everyone in class. Opportunities for dialogue over issues concerned with homework exist through contact with the parent/carer and the class teacher via Dojo. Extra support is offered in school where it is required.

Parental Support with Home Learning

Whilst we appreciate parental supervision to ensure that homework is completed, we also value parental participation in homework tasks. This shared opportunity will enhance the learning for the child through support with reading and the re-call of core knowledge as well as research and development for more creative tasks. Examples of positive pieces of home learning are shared in school on the shelving near the DT area.

Appendix 1

HOMEWORK ENRICHMENT

<p>YEAR: 3 - Autumn 1</p>	<p><u>Homework instructions:</u> English and Maths to be completed weekly and will be checked by the teacher every week. Teachers will sign diaries to show that work has been completed and checked. All other homework options are optional and are to be uploaded to Class Dojo unless requested otherwise by the class teacher. For each optional homework, there are 2 choices. Please pick one unless you wish to do both. Children will receive 1 Class Dojo for each of the homework's completed. If English or Maths is not completed each week, then children will complete during a break or lunchtime in school.</p>	
	Must Do	Optional
<p><u>ENGLISH</u> (ongoing)</p> <p>Practise spellings. Spellings are now on Purple Mash, children will need to do look, write, cover, check and complete the quiz. Children will be quizzed during the week. We will send the list home on a Monday.</p> <p>Reading - Children are expected to read to an adult at least 3 times a week (5 is preferable).</p>	✓	
<p><u>MATHS</u> (ongoing)</p> <p>Login to TTRS (Times Table Rock Stars) with your personal login details (to be found at the back of your school diary).</p> <p>KIRFs to practiced. Children to show that they have practiced by showing their learning in their KIRFs books. Children will be tested on these twice a term.</p>	✓	

<p><u>CHANGE 4 LIFE</u></p> <p>Go for a walk and collect some natural items. Can you then make an instrument from them? I look forward to hearing you create some music.</p> <p>Create a positive log for a week. What have you achieved or what have you been proud of each day. You may want to add pictures or drawings.</p>		✓
<p><u>GEOGRAPHY</u></p> <p>Your topic this term is Counties and Cities of the UK. It is up to you to create a homework based on this topic. You can make something, draw, created a PPT / factfile or something else creative. It is up to you!!</p>		✓
<p>Parent Comments:</p>		

Date to be handed in: Tuesday 17th October 2023