

RATIONALE FOR HOMEWORK

We see homework as an important example of cooperation between teachers and parents/carers. One of the aims of our school is to help children to develop as independent learners, and we believe that homework is one way in which children can acquire the skill of independent learning.

Homework can play a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment and should provide equal opportunity for each child to reach their potential.

While homework is important, it should not prevent children from taking part in the activities of various out-of-school clubs and of other organisations that play an important part in the lives of our pupils. In line with this school will ensure that:

- children will always have at least two days to complete and return homework to school
- the setting of homework will be flexible around days in the calendar that families may wish to mark or celebrate (e.g. Halloween, Bonfire Night, Shrove Tuesday)
- Homework will not be set the night before or the night after an educational visit or when pupils may be taking selection tests or statutory tests

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aims and objectives of homework are:

- to give children the opportunity to practise taught skills and to consolidate their learning
- to redraft and improve work done in school or to complete work which was unfinished
- to enable pupils to make maximum progress and achieve curriculum targets in Literacy and Numeracy
- to allow children to extend their learning in areas of the curriculum which are of particular interest to them
- to help pupils develop the skills of an independent learner and to help children develop good work habits for the future, in preparation for secondary education
- To encourage parents/carers to work with their children and promote cooperation between home and school in supporting each child's learning;

INCLUSION AND HOMEWORK

We recognise that children have individual learning styles, which means that some tasks can be completed in a number of different ways, while others demand a particular approach.

We set homework for all children as a normal part of school life. We ensure that all tasks set are appropriate to the ability of the child, and we endeavour to adapt any task set so that all children can contribute in a positive way. When setting homework to pupils who are named on the register of special needs, we refer to their Individual Education Plans (IEPs).

THE ROLE OF TEACHERS

- ensure children receive constructive feedback regarding the quality and attainment of completed tasks
- send home forecasts of topics and curriculum targets for literacy and numeracy at the start of each season
- respond, where appropriate, to parent/carer comments regarding homework and discuss any problems with the child (or parent/carer, if appropriate) as they arise
- where possible, keep to agreed days and times for setting and collecting work
- give work which allows children to reinforce, improve or extend learning
- provide tasks which are matched to a child's ability and learning style
- explain clearly the purpose of the task and how to complete it

THE ROLE OF PARENTS/CARERS

Parents/carers have a vital role to play in their child's education, and homework is an important part of this process. We ask parents/carers to encourage their child to complete the homework tasks that are set. We invite them to help their children with homework as and when they feel it to be necessary.

Parents/carers can support their child by providing a good, quiet working space at home and by discussing the work that their child is doing with them.

We ask parents/carers to monitor the quality and neatness of the work and ensure it is returned to school on time.

Homework handed in late will not be marked and children who do not complete homework or bring it to school may be asked to complete the task at break time unless there have been exceptional circumstances. If homework has not been handed in three times this will be reported to the Head teacher as this will impact on pupil progress.

THE SCHOOL'S HOMEWORK PROVISION

Reception

A weekly challenge, set out in a weekly challenge book, will be based on the current class topics being taught as well as the learning of phonic sounds.

When the children have grasped the phonic sounds required, they will progress onto early reading books.

Key Stage One

Reading at home is a central component of a pupil's development as a reader. Books sent home to share will be linked to the pupil's current reading target and are designed to help them to move on to the next stage in their development.

In the Foundation Stage and at Key Stage 1 we encourage children to look at books with parents/carers, talking about the text and the illustrations, and to read books which are sent home. More able children may be asked to write a short book review or complete a reading diary.

As children progress through KS1 they will be asked to learn phonic sounds and blends, learn spelling words and multiplication tables. Children in years 1 and 2 may be asked to complete maths tasks.

Children may be asked to do some simple research at home or to bring in objects from home to show and discuss in class.

Please note that Y2 pupils may be set homework as a means of helping them to prepare for their National end of Key Stage Statutory Assessments (SATs). Similar arrangements may be put in place to help prepare Y1 pupils for the National Phonics Screening check.

Key Stage Two

In addition to regular reading at home children will be given spelling words or an investigation into spelling rules and patterns as well as multiplication tables to learn. Children will be asked to keep a reading log.

Literacy and Numeracy homework will be set each week to practise and consolidate work done in class, to improve or complete work or complete a challenge aimed to take their learning forward.

A longer project linked to class topic work may be set in term 5 or 6. Teachers will provide parents and children with details of what is expected and a completion date. Children will be asked to evaluate their own and others' work, to present their project and to discuss it with teachers.

Please note that Y6 pupils may be set homework as a means of helping them to prepare for tests and their National end of Key Stage Statutory Assessments (SATs).

MONITORING AND REVIEW

It is the responsibility of our governing body to agree and then monitor the school homework policy.

Parents are asked to comment on the school's homework policy in regular Parent questionnaires.

The school's homework policy will be reviewed annually.

W Stacy
Year 6

Review policy date: