

Home Learning Policy

This policy applies to all pupils in the school, including EYFS

Guidelines from the Government

Schools are encouraged to plan homework carefully alongside learning that children do at school, and to ensure that all activities are appropriate for individual children. Here are some guidelines to give you an idea of how much time your child should be spending on homework, and how you can help them.

The emphasis is on how homework helps your child to learn, rather than on whether it takes a certain amount of time. For example, some children will work quicker than others and get more done in less time. The rough guidelines for primary school children are:

- Years 1 and 2: one hour per week
- Years 3 and 4: 1.5 hours per week
- Years 5 and 6: 30 minutes per day

Why is my child given homework?

Your child and their teacher work very hard to ensure that every day something new is learnt. Your child is given homework so that they can practise the new learning they have covered in school and at home and as a result make more rapid progress. It also keeps you the parent informed about the sort of learning your child is doing in school and what you can do to help at home.

What homework will my child be given?

The homework your child is given will depend on their age and stage of development. Reading, simple mathematics and written homework is given to children of all ages. More complex writing, spelling and maths homework is given to children from year 1 upwards. The homework may be in written form such as a worksheet, completing a task online or it may involve research or even learning something for a test. The teacher may decide to set tasks online using learning websites, for children with internet access at home. All homework will have a main focus of consolidating basic skills.

The guideline sheets at the back of this policy give details of the homework you can expect your child to be given during each year at school.

When will my child be given homework?

A home to school learning sheet will be sent home every Monday giving the tasks which need to be completed by the following Monday. This is to help working parents who may find it difficult to find time during the week to help their child. However reading homework should be carried out on a daily basis by children throughout the school and children should bring their book bags to school every day.

How long should my child spend doing their homework each evening?

Your child works very hard in school and we also appreciate that many children have after school commitments, however we strongly recommend that reading should always be a daily activity. Other pieces of homework are set in accordance with your child's age, ability and specific learning need. Your child's teacher will be able to determine what is appropriate for your child.

How will I know how to help my child?

Homework can be discussed during parent consultations and during curriculum events. Homework is mostly self-explanatory; teachers will include an example where appropriate. All homework will be explained to your child before they bring it home so that they know what they have to do. You can help your child by arranging if possible for your child to have somewhere quiet (away from the television!) where they can do their homework. Please do not do the child's homework for him/her!

How can I help my child when I don't know how to speak, read or write English?

Your child's teacher will always understand if this is a problem. In the past many parents have successfully arranged for an older brother, sister, cousin, uncle or other relative to help. Please tell your child's class teacher if this is not possible in your case.

What if my child cannot do the homework?

This should not happen as new learning is never sent home. If however your child does appear to be struggling at any time please do not become cross or irritated with your child but talk to their class teacher who will be happy to help.

What if my child does not want to do the homework?

When homework is set it is compulsory for all children. Home learning is a key part of your child's learning journey and reinforces and builds upon everything we do here at school. If your child is refusing to do the homework please talk to their class teacher who will be happy to discuss the problem with you and your child.

All children have the opportunity to join homework club which is run in school weekly by members of school staff. This club is optional but children who do not complete their homework at home will be encouraged to join as it is important that all children consolidate their basic skills in addition to their work in the classroom.

What if my child is ill or we are just too busy to do the homework?

Your child's teacher will always understand when there are occasional reasons for the homework not being completed. Please remember to see your child's teacher to explain so that your child does not suffer any embarrassment.

How will I know how well my child has done their homework?

Written homework will be marked as soon as possible by the class teacher and will be available for your child to take home. When your child has been tested on their homework the test will be marked and returned with any errors noted so that you and their teacher know which learning your child still needs to practise. Test results will be kept and you will be informed if we are concerned during parent's conference.

Please note that the purpose of these tests is to keep you, your child and their teacher informed about their progress. We would ask therefore that parents do not discuss the tests competitively with each other to avoid any child feeling under any undue pressure.

EYFS Homework Guidelines

What homework will my child be given?

It is very important that your child reads regularly at home to practise what they have learnt at school. Your child's book bag should be brought in every day so that the books can be changed.

Your child may also bring home other stories which they will not yet be able to read by themselves. These are intended for you or another family member to read to your child. Occasionally your child may be sent home with words which they are learning to read or spell.

Children will sometimes be given some other learning related to number or writing which will again help them with their learning in school.

As personal, social and emotional development is a key element of learning in EYFS sometimes home learning may be set that will help your child to develop one or more areas of these crucial skills.

How long should my child spend reading each night?

Ideally your child should spend 15 minutes reading each night.

What can I do to help?

- Attend the Parent meetings where the class teacher will tell you how to help your child.
- Sit with your child when they are reading to you.
- Try to find somewhere quiet to read together.
- Encourage your child to point at the words as they read.
- Praise your child for working out any words and ask them to read the sentence again.
- If your child is unable to work out any words please do not get cross but tell them the word and ask them to re-read the sentence.
- Talk about the story with your child by asking them questions about what happened in the story.
- When you have read with your child please sign the reading diary and if you wish write a comment. You could write about how well they read/the words they worked out/what your child said when you talked about the story and how well they understood what they read.
- Attend our Parental workshops for 'Helping your child to read at home'

Year 1 and Year 2 Homework Guidelines

How long should my child spend on their homework each night?

Your child should spend 20 minutes a night (15 minutes reading, 5 minutes spelling and practising mental maths) but if your child is tired do not worry if you miss the occasional night.

What homework will my child be given?

Your child will take a book home every day. In addition they will have additional Maths and English homework that is completed on a weekly basis. This could be reading, writing, spelling or maths homework or a combination of all types. Occasionally your child will also be given additional homework relating to topic work done in class. For example to develop year 2 history work on school days in the past, children may bring home a questionnaire for parents about their own schooling when they were little. All homework for the week will be outlined on the homework sheet that the class teacher will provide.

READING

Although it is likely your child may be able to or may have started to learn to read by the time they arrive in year 1, it is vital that they continue to read regularly at home so that they become really fluent readers. Your child should bring their book bag to school every day so that they can change their books and read daily.

What can I do to help?

- Sit with your child when they are reading to you.
- Try to find somewhere quiet to read together.
- Encourage your child to point at the words as they read.
- Encourage your child to break up longer more difficult words into manageable chunks.
- Praise your child for working out any words and ask them to read the sentence again.
- If your child is unable to work out any words please do not get cross but tell them the word and ask them to reread the sentence.
- Talk about the story with your child by asking questions about what they have read

- When you have read with your child please sign the reading diary and if you wish write a comment. You could write about how well they read/the words they worked out/what your child said when you talked about the story.

SPELLING and HANDWRITING

Your child will be given spellings and handwriting to learn every week. Create lots of opportunities for writing at home; lists, stories, invitations etc. Always be positive and praise whatever he/she is able to do.

MATHEMATICS

What homework will my child be given?

Most Maths homework will be in the form of a worksheet relating to learning covered at school. However, occasionally your child may be asked to learn some number facts/sequences or tables off by heart. For example 2,4,6,8,10..... Or 2+2, 4+4, 3+3...

How can I help?

- Attend the Parent meetings where the class teacher will tell you how to help your child.
- If possible give your child somewhere quiet to work.
- Sit with your child but don't do it for them
- Praise your child for all they get right. Do not get cross if they get things wrong but instead help them to correct their mistakes.
- Encourage your child to do what they can in their heads but do not worry if they can't. Instead encourage them to use their fingers or counting objects around the home(Chick peas, buttons, pencils, beads, counters and cubes)

Junior Homework Guidelines

How long should my child spend on their homework each night?

Your child should spend at least 20 minutes each night on their homework if they are in Year 3 or 4; building up to at least 30 minutes a night in Years 5 and 6.

What homework will be given?

Your child will be expected to read regularly at home but will also be given Maths and Literacy homework every week. The homework set will relate to the work done in class. Children may also be given specific pieces of other homework, e.g. related to a topic, or to support a specific intervention that your child is receiving. All homework for the week will be outlined on the homework sheet that the class teacher will provide.

LITERACY

What homework will be given?

Your child will be given spellings, reading and writing homework. All homework will be explained by the class teacher and will usually have examples of how the child is expected to complete it.

MATHEMATICS

What homework will be given?

During these years children will learn all their tables up to 12 x 12 as well as number facts and using and applying mathematical knowledge. This will form the basis of most of the mental mathematics homework. Your child may be given a worksheet to complete each week related to written methods and problem solving. Occasionally your child will be asked to do a mathematical investigation at home.

What can I do to help?

- Attend the Parent meetings where the class teacher will tell you how to help your child.
- Ensure he/she has a period of quiet/calm in order to complete their learning.
- Sign your child's learning to say you have seen it.

Key Principles

For Staff:

- Home learning activities should be planned in advance, as part of the topic, to consolidate and extend learning in class
- Activities should be clearly explained; children and parents are clear where they need to go for support if needed
- Home learning books should be marked weekly and parents kept informed of their child's progress
- If an activity extends over more than a week then the class teacher needs to make regular checks on progress, and interim work needs to be monitored
- Expectations of presentation and quality are the same for home activities as they are for school work

For Parents:

- A place for completing activities should be provided, without distractions
- Encourage and support your child. Show an interest in what they are learning
- Support the school by explaining to children that home learning is important and aids learning
- Sign and date home learning records when you are satisfied that it is of acceptable standard

For Pupils:

- Make the most of all the learning opportunities you are presented with
- Tackle tasks promptly and with a positive attitude
- Take pride in presentation and content
- Take responsibility for handing in completed work and making sure you have all the necessary equipment