

HOMEWORK POLICY – September 2020

This Policy was updated in September 2020.
Approved by Governors Autumn 2020.

Signed _____ (chair of governors)

Aims:

- To develop an effective partnership between the school and parents/carers and encourage pupils and their parents to share and enjoy learning experiences.
- To develop, consolidate and reinforce knowledge, skills and understanding.
- To ensure a consistent approach throughout the school.
- To use homework as a tool to help continue to raise standards of attainment and enjoyment of learning.

Content

- **Homework will consist of daily/weekly activities**
- and
- **A half termly homework project linked to the half terms curriculum challenge.**
- Recommendations for **daily/weekly homework** for each year group are as follows:-

| Year Group | Recommendation |
|------------|--|
| Reception | Daily reading practice 10 minutes (including reading book, high frequency word ring, phoneme ring) 5 days per week. |
| Year 1 | Daily reading practice 15 minutes (including high frequency words if necessary) 5 days per week. Weekly spellings |
| Year 2 | Daily reading practice 15 minutes (including high frequency words if necessary) 5 days per week. Weekly spellings |

Daily/Weekly Activities:

- All children have a reading book and reading diary which should be kept in their book bag at all times. Parents and carers should comment in the reading diary every time they have read with their child.

- Reception children have phoneme rings and high frequency word rings which should also be kept in their book bags at all times.
- Year 1 and 2 children have a spelling book. Spelling tests normally take place on a Friday and new spellings are given out the same day.
- Each child's reading diary has a reading achievements bookmark attached. Each week class teachers will check how often a child has read at home and will add that number of marks to the book mark. Once the bookmark is full the child will be able to choose a small prize to celebrate their achievement.

KS1 Half Termly Homework Projects

- Each half term a 'Homework challenge' will be sent home to be completed over the half term and brought in to school during the last week of the half term.
- The homework challenge will consist of 3 or 4 activities designed to develop and reinforce the half terms learning.
- The activities will cover a range of skills.
- The activities are designed to be open ended and can be developed as much as parents and children like depending on ability levels and interest in each task.

Role of the Class Teacher

- To provide a half termly homework project linked to the half terms curriculum challenge.
- To ensure that homework tasks are appropriate and that they take equal opportunities into account.
- To review and praise children when completing a homework project and celebrate their work with the rest of the class.
- To give feedback to pupils on their homework (verbal), and display homework projects appropriately.

Role of the Parent

- To support their child and the school by ensuring children complete their homework.
- To support, encourage and praise their children when completing their homework, creating a positive environment.
- To be actively involved in their children's homework activities whilst encouraging independence and decision making from their children. (Please see Annex A for further guidance.)

Special Educational Needs:

Appropriate homework for children with special educational needs will be closely monitored by class teachers, SENCO and parents. Homework for these children will not be seen as attempting to get pupils to catch up with the rest of the class but will give opportunity for children to succeed.

Monitoring and Evaluating:

- The efficiency and effectiveness of the homework policy will be monitored and evaluated by checking samples of work done as homework activities.
- Parents will be able to comment on their views of the effectiveness of homework at Parents' Evenings.

HOMework GUIDANCE FOR PARENTS

Homework is designed to:

- **Broaden children's knowledge and skills in the areas they are working on at school**
- **Provide parents with information about the kind of the things the children are learning about and the skills they are developing**
- **Help give parents ideas on how they can work with their children in a wider context and bring learning in to everyday activities**

As set out in our homework policy (see website) there are different homework expectations for each year group. They are as follows:

Reading

Children should read regularly (daily wherever possible). To begin with children will be able to read a whole book but as children become more fluent readers and books become longer, you may want to read for a certain amount of time rather than to complete a book. Guidelines are 10 minutes for reception children. 10- 15 minutes for year 1 and 2 children.

Tips for reading;

- Offer lots of encouragement and praise (try not to get frustrated if your child is struggling, this might be because they are tired!). If they are finding it too difficult try a different time for reading.
- If your child persistently protests about reading offer incentives to motivate them to read e.g. Weekly chart where if they read each day they get a small reward at the end of the week (this does not have to mean buying something, it could be to choose a movie and popcorn on Friday night)
- Speak to your child's class teacher if you are concerned about your child's reading

Spellings (year 1 and 2 children)

Spellings are not only sent home for the children to learn but to give parents information about what phonics their children are working on. The process of learning the spellings is important. As part of the process of learning spellings it would benefit them if you were to do a few things with the children;

- Talk to the children about what the individual words mean -look together at the spelling patterns that are being taught and look for this in other things e.g. In their reading book.
- See if they can put the word into a simple sentence and use the correct spelling (often children remember the word in the context of the 'test' but don't apply it to their writing!)
- Test them on the words in random order rather than the order they appear in the book.

Homework projects (year 1 and 2 children)

The homework projects are designed to build upon the learning that is going on in school and should be **fun** for the children. Please remember a few important points;

- It is not just about the end product but more importantly about the process the children go through. For example a cookery task is designed to develop a range of skills e.g. measuring ingredients, developing pouring and mixing skills, using tools e.g. cutters safely and with control, and understanding what ingredients are used to make different foods. This is equally as important as how nice the end product looks or tastes!
- The children should be able to complete the projects using their own ideas and skills with the level of support that you feel is necessary (this will differ from child to child and also depend on their skills in different areas)
- Although the homework is not formally 'marked' the children are given the opportunity to share their homework with the rest of the class and will receive verbal feedback from their teacher. Homework is also displayed outside the classrooms and in the hall.

Most importantly homework projects should be fun activities that the children can engage in with you, and they should not feel pressure from the homework.

We will endeavour to value the children's homework through praise to the individual children, displaying homework projects around school and sharing good examples of homework projects on our facebook page.