



# HOMEWORK POLICY

## INTRODUCTION

This policy sets out the expectations for homework in each year group in our school. This policy is based upon the guidance issued to Primary Schools by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). Recommended time allocations are given for each year group below.

For children aged 4 to 11 years homework should help to:

- Consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding, particularly in literacy and numeracy
- Extend school learning, for example by visiting the library, searching for topic related information in books and on computers

We consider that frequent reading at home is vital and will form the basis of homework for this age group. Parental involvement need only be brief. A few minutes sharing a short book is of far greater benefit than one longer session at the weekend.

Children will be expected to increase the amount of time spent on school related work at home as they progress through the school. Homework activities are designed to be short, frequent and age appropriate. We would expect the following homework to be undertaken by children and their parents/carers together:

## RECEPTION HOMEWORK EXPECTATIONS:

It is the school's expectation that a child in reception should be working for 5 – 10 minutes, 5 times a week. This would normally mean Monday to Friday, however we appreciate that your child might be busy on at least one evening during the week so they are able to catch up at the weekends if necessary. **Please record the school directed activities that you do with your child in their homework diary (fish book).** This will then be checked weekly and a team point will be awarded to those who have evidence of the minimum 5 sessions. School directed work includes any of the following, it is **not** expected that all activities will be done everyday, please choose from the following activities:

- reading – sharing a red bookmark book
- practising letter names and sounds
- practising high frequency words
- reading – listening and helping your child read an amber bookmark book when appropriate
- writing using high frequency words and 'sounding out knowledge'
- a numeracy based activity

Try and create a routine so that your child knows that it is an expectation that at a set time every day, not only do they need to do their homework but also that they are guaranteed some 1:1 time with a parent, undisturbed by brothers/sisters or tv/computer consoles.

## **YEARS 1 AND 2 (15 MINUTES DAILY MAXIMUM)**

In Key Stage 1, children are expected to read regularly at home and should be able to fully discuss and understand the text. Parents are encouraged to ask children questions about the setting and characters of a fiction text, and ask children to derive information from a non-fiction text. To reinforce these skills, comprehension activities will be sent home to be completed as independently as possible. Book reviews may be set to ascertain pupils' opinions about the text and develop independent writing. Team points will be awarded on a weekly basis for 5 homework activities set by the teacher, not necessarily 5 reads, in order to develop a wider range of Literacy skills.

As children progress and books generally become longer, it is suggested that children spend longer working on the book. Therefore, children may only need to change their books 3 times per week. Shorter books will be changed daily.

### **Expected homework (weekly)**

- Regular reading with an adult
- Spelling homework
- A book review or a comprehension activity
- Learning number bonds, tables etc
- Learn and use new and extended vocabulary
- A numeracy based activity

Homework is usually set to reinforce concepts that have been learnt in school, so children should be familiar with what they are being asked to do. Team points will be awarded on a weekly basis for 5 homework activities set by the teacher, which may include reading.

## **YEARS 3 AND 4 (20 MINUTES DAILY MAXIMUM)**

In Lower Key Stage 2, children are still expected to read regularly at home, with increasing independence. They should be able to discuss their understanding of the books that they have read. Parents will need to ask their children questions about characters, setting and content. Children should become more confident at recounting what they have read in fiction books and deriving information from a non-fiction text. To reinforce these skills, comprehension activities will be sent home to be completed as independently as possible. Book reviews will be completed to ascertain pupils' understanding of and opinions about the text and develop independent writing skills.

### **Expected homework (weekly)**

- Regular reading independently or with an adult / book review or a comprehension activity
- Weekly spelling homework
- Learning times tables and related division facts and using this knowledge to solve word problems.
- A numeracy based activity

### **Additional homework may include**

- Individual research linked to a theme

If a child does not complete homework it will be done at playtime. Team points will be awarded on a weekly basis for 5 homework activities set by the teacher, which may include reading.

### **YEARS 5 AND 6 (30 MINUTES DAILY MAXIMUM)**

In Upper Key Stage 2, children are required to approach their homework as independently as possible. Parental assistance is welcomed, but children should be encouraged to approach their work on their own, asking for help only if necessary.

Children are expected to read regularly at home. This is generally an independent task, although we encourage children to discuss their reading with their family. Parents should monitor the use and completion of the 'Text Detectives' logs, where children work through reading targets in order to achieve a level.

#### **Expected homework (weekly)**

- Frequent independent reading
- Spelling homework
- A literacy based activity
- A numeracy based activity

#### **Additional homework may include**

- Individual research linked to a theme
- Learning number bonds, tables etc
- Learn and use new and extended vocabulary
- Revise and reinforce spelling rules
- Occasionally your child will receive homework based on a theme or science homework

Children are always informed how long they have to complete a set piece of homework. Should a child fail to produce their homework on the relevant day, they will complete the task during a playtime. If a child fails to hand in three pieces of homework over one term, they will lose their playtimes for a whole week. Team points are no longer awarded for completion of homework but will be awarded for consistently good effort/high quality work. These procedures help each child to form good habits in preparation for Secondary school.

### **CONCLUSION**

We appreciate that many of our children attend clubs and other out of hour's activities. It is essential that all of our children have sufficient time to develop socially through play. All children need time to relax and rest. It is essential that all children are in bed at a reasonable time if they are to remain alert and receptive to learning the following day. Homework will not be set across school holidays or for children who miss school during term time owing to unauthorised holiday absence.

We recognise that for most children the school day is sufficiently challenging and that sometimes additional work may be counter productive or cause friction between children and parents. Parents are encouraged to maintain dialogue with class teachers and discuss at an early stage any concerns or problems. Class teachers will share any concerns at an early stage with parents.