



# 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 is essential. Ten 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:**

Homework in Reception should be completed at a time that is suitable to the child and their family. Each homework session should take no longer than five to ten minutes. Homework will focus on reading in Term 1 and Term 2. The children will be given a new reading book once it has been read at least twice at home and new tricky words, each week. From term 3 onwards, children will be given a number/writing activity or another activity linking to that week's learning.

A range of homework will be issued but it is NOT expected that all activities be completed each time. The homework will normally consist of:

- A number activity (From Term 3)
- Reading (at least 3 times per week)
- Practising high frequency words (weekly)
- Letter formation

Other homework may be issued at the discretion of the Reception Team.

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

In Key Stage 1, children are expected to read daily 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.

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
- Learning number bonds, tables or a numeracy based activity
- A spelling, punctuation, grammar activity
- A book review or a comprehension activity- will be introduced as appropriate in Year 1.

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 daily 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 may 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)**

- English homework
- Spelling homework
- A Maths based activity- times tables
- Active Learn online games - (allocated termly)
- Reading independently or with an adult / book review or a comprehension activity
- Learning times tables and related division facts and using this knowledge to solve word problems.

Children are expected to read regularly at home. This can be an independent task, although we encourage children to discuss their reading with their family and record what they have read in their homework diaries. The child or an adult can record this.

If a child does not complete homework it will be done at playtime. Team points are may be awarded for completion of homework and for consistently good effort/high quality work.

### **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 and record it themselves in their homework diaries.



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

- Spelling homework
- A Maths based activity
- An English based activity (Year 5)
- reading comprehension booklets (Year 6)
- Independent reading
- Active Learn Online Maths activities (Year 5 allocated termly, Year 6 allocated weekly)

### **Additional homework may include**

- TT Rock Stars (Year 5 and 6)
- Individual Research Project (IRP) linked to a theme or science based (Year 6)
- Purple Mash (Year 6)

If a child does not complete homework it will be done at playtime. 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 counterproductive 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.