



Home Learning (Homework) Policy

The Importance of Home Learning

We set home learning (sometimes called Homework) because:

- It reinforces key skills and understanding in English and Mathematics
- It develops independent learners
- It encourages creativity in all curriculum areas
- It contributes to improved achievement in Reading, Writing and Mathematics
- It provides opportunities for parents and children to work together, building a partnership between home and school

We value the support of parents and carers. We believe that this policy will be successful if there is a strong partnership between home and school.

We recognise that all children need leisure time. We also know that children who participate in clubs and activities outside of school develop essential skills and attitudes that make them ‘more rounded’ people. Our policy reflects the balance needed to consolidate their learning, with parental support, while having time for other pursuits.

The Home Learning Structure

Home Learning is divided into three strands.

Reading	Key Skills	Creative Tasks
We want our children to read for pleasure. This means reading every day without it feeling like a burden for child or parent. Developing the reading habit is the best way to achieve this.	All pupils benefit when they know their numbers, times tables, key words and spellings. Weekly practice on these is vital. Practising key skills learnt in class is also important.	We provide a menu of exciting activities from all subjects. These tasks encourage pupils to be creative. Pupils are expected to complete one (EYFS/KS1) or two (KS2) tasks per ten week block.

How this works

Reading: Reading every day provides essential practice for children of all ages. It also encourages a love of books and reading. Pupils have books provided by school. They can also select books from the library and the class book areas. All pupils can have more than one book to read from and they may have favourites at home as well.

Pupils should read for a minimum of ten minutes a day rising to fifteen minutes as they grow older. This is important as reading for fifteen minutes without difficulty is an important part of the tests children take in Year Six. Building stamina for this is important. Pupils who enjoy reading always find it easier to read for much longer and our aim is to create enthusiastic readers.

Key Skills: Our pupils need to be able to count and know their times tables. They also need regular practice with spellings and key words. We know that these key skills are best learned when completed in

shorter, regular sessions. This means practising things they have learned in school. Pupils who do this several times a week are better able to use their skills in lessons.

Creative Tasks: Home Learning linked to other subjects is important as it provides an opportunity for children to be creative and/or work with parents. A menu is issued each block (of ten weeks) so that a task or tasks can be selected from the many on offer. We expect EYFS/KS1 pupils to complete one task per ten week block and KS2 pupils to complete two per block.

These things are important:

- We monitor daily reading through a school reading log. We ask parents to sign to prove that children have read on a daily basis.
- We provide information on a weekly basis showing which key skills need to be practised.
- We provide a menu of creative tasks for each ten week block.
- There is a range of activities on the menu so that pupils can select the tasks that most appeal to them.
- Pupils should choose the equivalent of one task per ten week block in EYFS/KS1 and two per ten week block in KS2.
- Some tasks involve talk home learning and do not require any writing.
- We provide sufficient time for learning key skills, e.g. spellings, and will inform pupils and parents when these items will be tested.
- Some pupils have commitments outside school, to clubs etc., and appreciate the flexibility we offer.
- Some pupils may wish to do more than the required number of creative tasks. As long as key skills are practised, this is welcomed.
- Many pupils will challenge themselves through home learning tasks.
- No pupil will be expected to complete all tasks from the creative menu.

Reading and Key Skills Home Learning

Teachers monitor reading through a reading record which parents are asked to sign. Teachers do this on a weekly basis.

Spellings are given out on a weekly basis with sufficient time to learn them before a test.

Teachers will check pupils' number skills through mental mathematics and times table tests. We use this guide to show which tables pupils should know at each age:

By the end of Year Two pupils should know their 2, 5 and 10 times tables and related division facts.

By the end of Year Three pupils should know: 2, 3, 4, 5, 8 and 10 times tables and related division facts.

By the end of Year Four pupils should know all their times tables and related division facts.

By the end of Year Five pupils should know all the times tables and related division facts.

By the end of Year Six pupils should know all times tables, related division facts and process them with speed.

There are key skills that pupils in Reception and Year One also need. By the end of Year One pupils should be able to:

Count, read and write numbers to 100

Count in multiples of 2s, 5s 10s

Know and use all number bonds to 20

Handing In Creative Home Learning

Every teacher has a chart on display in the classroom. When a piece of home learning has been completed, the teacher will mark this on the chart. The work can be handed in at any time during the block.

The very best home learning tasks will be put on display. We shall also put photographs of creative ideas on our website or on Twitter.

Our Support for Parents and Pupils

As a school we will take these steps to support pupils with their home learning:

- Provide good quality reading books for reading at home
- Open the library every day at lunchtime and two days of the week after school
- Provide a menu of creative home learning for pupils to select tasks which interest them
- Provide tasks to support the learning of key skills in Reading, Spelling and Mathematics
- Provide specific support to pupils who request it
- Remind parents of the importance of home learning in class letters each term
- Provide extra ways in which parents can help at home in the 'How you can help your child' document, sent out with the class letter. (Both can be found on the class page of the website.)
- Celebrate high quality home learning through display, websites and in assemblies
- Check that pupils know their times tables and key words (and spellings)
- Inform parents where home learning is not being done
- Make clear to parents the link between home learning and achievement in school

Our Expectations of Pupils

We have the following expectations of pupils

- Develop the reading habit by reading every day (either to yourself, an adult or older brother and sister) and talk about your reading
- Treat your reading record with importance: take it home and bring it to school every day and keep it up to date
- Learn the key skills in Mathematics and their times tables
- Learn the key words and spellings
- Complete one creative home learning task per ten week block in EYFS/KS1
- Complete two creative home learning tasks per ten week block in KS2
- Produce home learning tasks of high quality
- Show high levels of independence
- Seek help from your teacher if you need it

Conclusion

This policy has been rewritten in response to parental and pupil feedback. It should be considered alongside other relevant policies, especially the Mathematics and English policies. It will be reviewed in line with the governing body's schedule of policy review.

June 2017