**Glenkens Partnership Home Learning Policy – 2018.**

**Rationale:**

Studies show that traditional homework has less impact upon learning than other influences. However, homework provides parents with an idea of what the children are learning in school and how they can support the children’s learning.

Working with children and parents we have created this policy to make learning at home more engaging. Our “Home Learning Policy” moves away from traditional home work sheets and is being developed using a series of challenges in reading, spelling and maths on a weekly or fortnightly basis and longer term themed challenges. Our Home Learning Policy sets out expectations and agreements and gives parents more autonomy on how and when “Home Learning Challenges” are approached.

**Choosing the right time:**

Effective home learning should not be stressful. If stress is being experienced it is better to stop. We ask that if the completion of home learning is causing stress or anxiety, please come in and talk with us to see if we can help. As parents we have busy lives and appreciate the need for planning. Each school will set a timeline for weekly home learning challenges. When undertaking home learning challenges try to choose quiet times when the challenges can be shared.

**Timelines:**

Home Learning challenges will be set by class teachers with a regular timetable, which allows parents to plan for Home Learning within busy schedules.

**How long should Home Learning activities take?**

We consider the following to be a guideline for how long Home Learning tasks should take.

P1-3

* Reading – long enough to share a book or between 5-10 minutes at least 3x weekly
* Spelling – a 10 minute challenge
* Maths - a 10 minute challenge

P4/5

* Reading – long enough to share a book or between 10-15 minutes at least 3x weekly
* Spelling – a 15 minute challenge
* Maths - a 15 minute challenge

P6/7

* Reading – long enough to share a book or between 20 and 30 minutes at least 3x weekly
* Spelling – 20 to 30 minute challenge
* Maths - 20 to 30 minute challenge

**Themed Challenge:**

Each term a long term challenge will be set. This will be either and art & craft or research challenge. Learners will be able to complete the challenge following their own interests or deciding how to present their own challenge.

**Communication:**

Children find admitting to not having completed traditional homework very stressful and younger children can become very upset. We do not want this to be the case. To try and mitigate this we have devised the following codes and ask parents to mark these in the homework diaries along with their signatures.

* The codes will be attached to the inside of homework diaries or reading diaries.
* Only the code, (e.g. **H1** ) needs to be noted and then signed by the adult.
* We would ask that you take a few moments to complete the code each week to help us keep track.
* Unless you have opted out of Home Learning we will follow up a pattern where codes are not being used.

**Home Learning Codes:**

**H1** Home Learning in this subject completed using the suite of activities

**H2** Home Learning in this subject completed in a different way and not recorded

**H3** Home Learning in this subject not completed this week

**H4** No Home Learning completed this week

**Opting out of home learning:**

There are a minority of families who have expressed a wish to opt out of Home Learning. Although we would advise against this, we believe parents have the right to choose. As our Home Learning Challenges are being designed to support learning within school we would advise that simply opting out because your child doesn’t like it or doesn’t want to do it is not a good enough reason. If you are unsure about opting out and would like to discuss this further, we would be pleased to talk with you.

**After due consideration, if you have decided to opt out of Home Learning we would ask that you let us know in writing, otherwise we will follow this up with you.**

If you are selectively choosing the Home Learning Challenges please use the codes above.

**Our Home Learning activities:**

Teachers may ask for parents to complete specific activities to support children’s learning at home. However, to be flexible we are building a suite of activities as alternative so that you and your children can choose from a range of activities to complete Home Learning tasks. These activities will be available as ideas on our website and initial copies sent home. These activities will cover mathematics and spelling. We will also provide suggested websites. We would be pleased to hear of any further ideas you may want to share.

**And finally….**

This is a draft policy which we will evaluate at the end of the academic year. We will relook at the policy periodically to make changes or improvements. We would be happy to hear from you with thoughts and suggestions and take these into account during our evaluations.

If you are struggling with Home learning please do make contact with us to see if there is any way in which we can offer further support.

Spelling Challenges

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| **Simple Spellings….**   * Write out your spellings 3 time each | **Sentence writers….**   * Write a sentence using each spelling | **I spy….**   * With a partner, try to find your spelling words in a dictionary. |
| **Look, Cover, Write, Check….** (Correct if necessary)   * Look at each word, cover it, write it, check it. * How many did you get right?   Can you improve your score?  Play with a someone else | **Longer writing….**   * Make up a story using all of your spelling words. * Get someone to check them for you | **Spelling snap….**   * Make 2 sets paper cards with the spellings. * Play snap in the usual way. * When you say snap you have to close your eyes and spell the word. * If you spell it correctly you keep the cards. |
| **Funny Rhymes**   * Make a rhyme with your tricky spellings – e.g.   **What – W**ho **H**as **A** **T**eddy? | **Missing letters….**   * Ask someone to write a spelling for you with spaces for missing letters * Get them to say the word, spell out the word out loud and write in the missing letters   Can you improve your score? | **Spelling Hangman….**   * With a partner choose spelling words to play spelling hangman |
| **Spelling Battleships….**   * With a partner play spelling battleships. * Use squared paper and coordinates, put one letter in each square and then try to find and guess the other person’s battleship word * Once you have think you have found all the letters shout spelling battleships and check your answer. | **Spelling Tennis….**   * Choose a spelling word. * With a partner, take it in turns to write the next letter. Check the spelling at the end to make sure you were right. * How many did you spell correctly between you? | **Acrostic poems**   * Make acrostic poems with your spelling words   **W**hite  **H**aired  **E**lephants  **R**ead  **E**lmer |

If you have any more ideas we would love to add them to our suite. Please share them with us