



Background

There are many benefits to homework. Homework allows reinforcement and consolidation of learning undertaken in class. It provides parents and carers with information about progress being made and involves them directly in their child's learning. Homework trains pupils in planning and organising their work. These good habits will support them in future education and beyond.

Our policy was derived from a school-wide consultation of pupils, parents and staff.

Our Aims

- To further strengthen effective partnership working between home and school and to promote parental involvement and support
- To raise the attainment and achievement of every pupil
- To encourage pupils to develop skills for lifelong learning
- To provide guidance for pupils, parents and teachers on their role and responsibilities in relation to homework

How Long Should Children Spend on Homework?

Any recommendations are, of course, dependant on your child's stage within the school and current attainment level. The following should be considered as approximate guidelines, based on a homework week of 4 sessions:

- Primaries 1 and 2- 40 minutes (equivalent to 4 X 10)
- Primaries 3 and 4- 1hr (equivalent to 4 X 15)
- Primaries 5 , 6 and 7- 1hr 20 minutes (equivalent to 4 X 20)

What Kind of Tasks Will Be Given as Homework?

All homework tasks will generally reinforce key skills in numeracy and / or literacy. There may be some opportunities to consolidate skills from other areas of the curriculum with the support and involvement of families.

P1:

A pack of reference resources will be provided to give guidance on correct number and letter routes as well as suggested activities. Reference resources will be printed on yellow paper and should be kept at home for regular use. Large homework jotters will be provided to record activities, if appropriate. Children may wish to practice their number and letter routes in this jotter.

Literacy

Reading books will be set for pupils to read and enjoy with parents and carers. The books will have already been read and discussed in school but children will benefit from the opportunity to discuss the title, front cover and main events in the story with you. These books will complement, but not replace, other home reading experiences such as bedtime stories and library books.

Words relating to the books being read will be consolidated through games and activities based around a Word Wall. Full instructions will be provided in homework packs

Children will be provided with a Sound Jotter, containing all sounds they are learning. To encourage children to learn the sounds and use them to read and spell words, activities and games will be suggested. Full instructions will be provided in homework packs.

Numeracy & Maths

One activity to help reinforce key mathematical skills and develop a sound number sense will be provided each week.

P2-P7:

Spelling

Word lists will be copied or stuck into jotters, depending on the child's stage and learning needs. The list should be copied twice using "Look, Cover, Write, Check" and two supplementary activities from the grid provided should be completed. Full guidance for completion will be provided within the spelling homework jotter.

Reading

Pages will be set from the pupils' class reader. In the lower school these will be pages that have already been read with the teacher and discussed. They should be practised at home to build up skills in decoding/fluency and expression. Moving further up the school, pages may be set to read to a certain point to enable pupils to move through a text. Parents/carers are provided with a prompt sheet to ask questions which promote thinking and check understanding at home.

Talk Homework

Research shows that children need to develop confidence in using language verbally before they can use it in their writing. In order for children to produce their best writing they need to discuss the topic in advance.

Prior to a writing session, pupils will be given information about the class writing task. Pupils are asked to discuss the topic with an adult at home in preparation for their writing. This homework involves discussion only.

Maths

We are currently reviewing mental maths homework. Until November, to practise mental skills children can use the school's Sumdog subscription. We are mindful of parental limits on screen time and suggest 10 mins per night at parents' discretion. If children are unable to access a digital platform at home, we will provide access in school. There will be one further maths activity per week, completed on a sheet or in a maths homework jotter.

How Will Homework Tasks Be Communicated?

All pupils will use a diary-system, recording homework tasks on a weekly basis.

In P3-P7 this will take the form of a formal diary in which the children record homework tasks independently or with teacher support, learning to manage their own homework calendar. In the early stages (P1 and P2), this may simply be a grid prepared by the class teacher and highlighting the homework tasks to be completed each week.

Feedback & Assessment

Teachers will provide feedback to pupils on their progress in homework tasks in a variety of ways, but generally this feedback will be in the form of comments highlighting strengths and next steps. These comments may be written or oral and teachers will ensure that feedback has been provided prior to a new set of tasks being issued.

Teachers will respond to comments and notes from parents/carers. This may be initialling and dating a comment to ensure that the parent/carer knows it has been seen and will be addressed.

When Will Homework Tasks Be Issued?

In general, homework is set weekly on a Tuesday to be returned the following Monday. Some weeks this will vary due to other school events or holidays. Please see the list below of homework issue dates for the session.

Date of Issue	Date of Return	Date of Issue	Date of Return	Date of Issue	Date of Return
3/9/19	9/9/19	12/11/19	18/11/19	18/2/20	24/2/20
10/9/19	16/9/19	19/11/19	25/11/19	25/2/20	2/3/20
17/9/19	23/9/19	26/11/19	2/12/19	3/3/20	9/3/20
24/9/19	7/10/19	7/1/20	13/1/20	10/3/20	16/3/20
22/10/19	28/10/19	14/1/20	20/1/20	17/3/20	23/3/20
29/10/19	4/11/19	21/1/20	27/1/20	24/3/20	30/3/20
5/11/19	11/11/19	28/1/20	3/2/20		

If homework tasks are not completed, a reminder will be noted in your child's homework diary. If homework is missed for two consecutive weeks, the school will contact parents/carers to discuss further. If for any reason your child is unable to complete tasks set e.g. a family event, then please make a note in the homework diary for the teacher.

Thank you for your continued support.