

Mortlach Primary School

Homework Policy

Updated: March 2022

Following consultation with parents in February 2022, staff undertook a review of the previous expectations with regards to homework. With parent feedback in mind, staff developed the new homework policy which will come into action from April 2022 (after the Easter break).

When to expect your child's homework, and when it is due back?

Homework for most classes will be handed out on Thursday and returned to class on a Tuesday. However, P2/3 will hand out their maths homework on a Monday and expect it back the following Monday, P2/3 spelling will be handed out on a Thursday and returned on a Tuesday. This gives families the option of completing homework during the week, or over the weekend. There will be some instances where homework will not be handed out; for example the last week of term etc.

Any homework received after the due day will not be marked by class teachers, however a day's grace will always be given. If you know that your child's work is going to be late please let us know and we will work round it. Handing in late work makes it very difficult for teachers to stay on top of marking and allow for quality feedback to be given to pupils.

Online or Paper

Having consulted parents, a clear preference for paper/jotters has been noted. After the Easter break homework will be handed out in jotters or in paper format. There will no longer be an option to submit homework via an assignment on MS Teams. It is very difficult to keep track of homework being handed in electronically and in paper format, we need to streamline this to make it simpler for everyone.

We will however, have to keep the MS Teams class groups up and running, in case we need to revert to online learning at any point (COVID mitigations, snow closures etc). P6 and P7 pupils will also continue to use MS Teams for their weekly reflective logs.

During the consultation period it also became clear that not all children were accessing Sumdog. It has been decided by staff that pupils are more than welcome to use it at home, if they wish to practice maths and numeracy skills, but teachers will not be setting Sumdog activities on a weekly basis.

Expectations

In every class, children will be expected to complete spelling, maths/numeracy and reading activities weekly.

Spelling – copy each word on spelling list three times and complete an activity from the activities list given by teachers.

Maths/Numeracy – pupils will receive a paper copy of specific questions or activities which they need to complete at home.

Reading – parents need to check pupil's diaries daily to see the pages of their child's reading book that need to be prepared, and the date they need to be prepared by. Pupils will continue to use the Accelerated Reading programme, parents should encourage their child to read for at least 20 minutes every night. The Accelerated Reading programme is usually for pupils in P2 and upwards, however some pupils may be able to access the programme earlier and other may take longer.

Other tasks such as preparing for presentations, conducting independent research or preparing for activities such as 'Grow your £5', might be expected throughout the school year.

We would imagine that, other than reading, homework activities would take no more than 20 to 40 minutes a week. We understand that family life is busy and that children have lots of hobbies, clubs etc that take up time.

Why do we have homework?

It has been proven that one of the key drivers in enhancing pupil attainment is parental involvement and engagement in their child's learning. By supporting your child to complete activities set you are gaining an understanding of how your child is progressing, and you are able to give your child one to one support which may help them to make progress and address any underlying difficulties.

Homework Diaries

Please look at your child's homework diary every day. Staff will often put notes in diaries to make you aware of changes or to highlight any activities that need to be completed.

You are welcome to write notes in diaries, however, it can be difficult for staff to read each diary first thing in the morning, an email or phone call to the office will ensure that messages are received in a timely manner.

Please sign your child's diary each week.

Reflective Logs

Pupils reflect on their learning in school and take logs home to share with parents. These are a great opportunity for you to become familiar with what your child has been learning and their next steps. You can then support your child at home to make progress towards their next steps.

Again, please sign your child's reflective log each week.

