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Homework Policy

Introduction

The aim of the Homework policy is to promote learning at home as an essential part of good education. Homework not only reinforces classroom learning, it also helps children to develop skills and attitudes they need for successful lifelong learning. Homework is anything that children do outside the normal school day, which contributes to their learning in response to guidance from the school. Homework encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents to support children's learning.

Aims

The aims of homework are:

- To help pupils develop the skills of an independent learner.
- To promote a partnership between home and school in supporting each child's learning.
- To consolidate and reinforce learning done in school and to allow children to practice skills taught in lessons.
- To help children develop good work habits for the future.

Homework at our school

Whilst we support all of the above key principles, we are not schools at which homework dominates home and school life. We accept that not every activity will capture children and parents' imagination and that weekends can sometimes be busy. We believe that homework should be enjoyable and manageable for all concerned and that if it becomes a chore/burden/source of conflict it ceases to be a constructive aspect of teaching and learning.

We do not specify amounts of time that must be spent on a task, preferring individual children and families to set their own routines. Individual teachers are happy to give advice.



We hope the children are motivated by positive incentives and by the tasks themselves. However, children will be required to complete homework during the school day if it is not completed at home.

Our routines and expectations

All classes give out weekly homework. Schedules will be specified on individual class pages.

The work should always have been explained and discussed in class before coming home; it may be a continuation of classwork, or a game already familiar to your child. It is our intention, and good practice, not to send work home that the child cannot already do i.e. parents are not expected to teach new skills.

There should be a clear explanation/reminder from the teacher of what is expected.

Each child has a homework book or folder and the majority of tasks are kept in there. Work that needs marking (and is not feeding into other classwork) will be returned to the folder. This should happen each week.

The tasks set will not always need to be handed in; there are other ways in which teachers will respond or give feedback, for example, sharing results in class discussion, putting work onto a display or transferring work into class books.

Broadly speaking these are current expectations:

Nursery – topic based practical activity to do together

Reception – daily reading, learning key words and engaging with a weekly topic related task to be done alongside your child

Year 1 and 2 – daily reading, spellings, weekly homework that alternates between maths and English/topic. Again, many of the tasks will involve paired work with your child!

Years 3 and 4 – daily reading, weekly times tables (for a weekly test), spellings and a longer weekly task alternating between English/topic and maths

Years 5 and 6 - daily reading, weekly times tables (for a weekly test), spellings and 2 longer tasks each week - English/topic and maths. Occasionally extended projects running for a few weeks will be set.

We expect children to maintain the same standards for presentation of homework as we set in school i.e. to use their best handwriting and a sharp pencil or pen.

As far as possible, homework will be related to class topics. This is important as it helps parents to know more about what is going on in class and to support enthusiasm for learning. Parents might, for example, find themselves supporting research of Egyptian Gods, finding out about grandparents' experience of school or measuring objects around the home. This also means that each child can pursue a set task at their own level of ability.

In the few weeks prior to SAT tests, the Year 6 children will be given additional revision work.



It is our policy not to give homework over the holidays and half term breaks. The exception will be where the parent and teacher agree extra work would be beneficial.

Fun activities may be suggested for the holiday period, but these are not compulsory.

If you take holiday during term-time, something we actively discourage, parents may not request work from the teacher. We suggest that parents organise a holiday diary.

Parents as partners

Parents have a vital role to play in their child's education, and homework is an important part of this process. We ask parents to encourage their child to complete the homework tasks that are set. We invite them to help their children as they feel necessary and provide them with the sort of environment that allows children to do their best:

- a quiet area with a table
- if possible, no television to be on

What to do if you have concerns

If you find the homework inappropriate for your child, if they lack interest, if it becomes a battleground or if you are concerned that homework is given inconsistently please talk with your child's teacher in the first instance.

If you still have concerns, please talk with Jacqui Palmer, the Headteacher.