



Homework Policy

Date: Autumn 2025

Review: Autumn 2028

Ferndale Primary School

Homework Policy

Rationale

At Ferndale Primary School we believe that homework is an essential part of pupils' learning. In line with National Curriculum requirements, homework is set, and children are encouraged to and expected to establish good homework habits from the beginning of their school life.

Definition

Homework is defined as work set by the teacher to be done at home, either by the child alone or with the support of an older sibling, parent or carer. The main focus of homework will be times tables, spellings and reading, with periodic tasks to extend and enhance learning across the curriculum.

Homework will involve some or all of the following activities:

- Reading
- Spellings and vocabulary extension: learning sounds and spellings; activities to apply spelling rules and patterns to extended tasks.
- Learning number facts and practice of times tables

A Research or task into an aspect of the curriculum will be provided that could be completed at home.

The nature, type and amount of homework will vary according to the age and ability of the pupil. Every Friday, all homework will be sent out via our Ferndale App.

Aims

At Ferndale, we appreciate how important the links between home and school are, and the need for us to work together to ensure a good education for all children that creates a supportive environment for homework and well-being at home.

Homework will be carefully planned to extend learning, enhance and reinforce skills and understanding, and allow children to consolidate and improve their skills further.

Through the provision of a variety of activities and approaches to homework we aim to:

- raise standards in all curriculum areas but particularly basic skills in Maths and English
- create a sound partnership between parents and teachers with regard to children's learning
- consolidate/reinforce pupils' skills, knowledge and understanding

Why do we set homework?

Homework enables children to practice and extend skills learned in the classroom and also gives pupils a chance to undertake research and additional learning, as required. It involves Parents (and other adults) in the children's work, and we believe that homework encourages and improves independent learning.

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What sort of homework should I expect for my child?

- Children will bring home, reading books every day. In addition, children will be given tasks to support learning of spellings and times tables.
- Homework tasks will depend on the age and ability of children, but in general terms the following can be expected:

Below you will find a breakdown of the expectations.

Early Years:

In Nursery the children will have an interest book each week that they share with their parents. The parents are then asked to complete the reading record so that they can tell the teachers what they have discussed with their child.

In Nursery, additional tasks and activities will be posted on Tapestry (our online learning journal) where appropriate.

In Reception, reading books are given weekly. This consists of a book to share at home and a book closely matched to a child's phonics stage. Tricky words are sent home as and when they are required for children to practice.

From the spring term in Reception, every two weeks, we record a story and attach a range of home learning activities that can be selected from on Tapestry.

In Early Years a reading bag will be provided.

Reading:

In years 1 to 6 school will provide a book closely matched to your child's phonics/reading level. As well as this they will bring home an 'interest book', which is designed to be shared at home. This means your child may need some support with the reading of this.

Access to our well-stocked, inviting and up-to-date libraries help to support children to read at home and to complement the work going on in our school.

We will also provide a reading record for parents and carers to share information about reading from home. We encourage adults to read at home with the children at least three times a week if possible.

In KS1 a reading bag will be provided.

School will ensure reading books are changed regularly and in a timely way. When adults hear children read in school they record this in the child's reading record therefore it is essential that books and reading records are brought to and from school every day.

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Spellings and phonics:

In year 1 children will be given phonics to support learning within school.

In years 1 – 6 children will be given spellings that link to the week's spelling rule in class. In years 1 and 2, 6 spellings will be sent home per week. In year 3, 8 spellings will be sent home and in years 4-6, 10 spellings will be sent home. Some children will have spellings sent home that are specific to their learning.

Spellings are taught in school and the spellings sent home will support an application lesson on Fridays.

Maths:

In year 1, children will focus on basic number skills each week. Children will be encouraged to practise these at home via Num Bots. The number focus for each week will be set on a Friday and children will be given the week to practice these at home before completing a number check on the following Friday in class.

In years 2 to 6, children will focus on specific times table facts each week. Children will be encouraged to practice these at home via Times Table Rock Stars or by utilising games which have been taught in class. These times tables will be set on a Friday and children will be given the week to practice these at home before completing a times table check on the following Friday in class which will consist of 24 questions.

Times tables and basic number acquisition is a big driving force of mathematics as they underpin numerous areas within the maths curriculum. Therefore, we believe that by children being given regular opportunity to practise these skills at home and apply them in class, they will benefit greatly when accessing other areas of the maths curriculum as these skills will already be embedded.

Topic:

In years 1 – 6, topic homework is a "**could**" option and if children wish to complete this they are able to.

Teachers will send a topic homework at the start of each half term with some ideas on how the children can present their work. The idea is that this part of homework is more creative and the children get to independently choose how to present their work. An example might be that in Year 2 the topic is volcanoes so the children could make their own volcano or paint a picture of one.

The work will be due in on the last week of that half term and celebrated with the class.

Well-Being

Whilst we recognise the importance in homework being set, we understand that it is important to maintain a healthy work-life balance for our children. It is for this reason that we believe that it is important that children have homework set that will support learning within the classroom and has

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been assigned to have a clear purpose of reinforcing classroom learning that limits excessive workloads and promotes flexibility in assignment types.

We do everything we can to support the children with practising their reading, spellings and times tables, however we also want to encourage a healthy, school-life balance.

We would encourage parents to continue to support your children to follow their own interests to incorporate movement and mindfulness activities such as researching their interests, playing sports, taking part in clubs and going for family walks or other adventures. We acknowledge that these activities are invaluable for supporting mental health and body and mind.

Online logins:

Your children will have logins for 'Times Tables Rockstars' and 'Num bots'.

Times Tables Rock Stars (ttrockstars.com)

NumBots | Motivational maths practice for schools and families.

Please speak to school if you require support in accessing a device.

Homework Review:

- Homework will be set on Fridays as much as possible.
- Teachers will review any homework that is completed by the children, but will not mark any homework.
- Children will be rewarded for completing homework. They will receive 5 dojos for every 3 times they have read at home with parents or carers. They will also receive 3 dojos for each completed homework activity. If homework is late, children will still receive the dojo points.

	SHOULD			COULD
Year Group	Times tables	Reading	Spellings	Topic
1	Num bots	Every night	Phonics	1 per half term
2	2's, 5's & 10's	Every night	6 per week	1 per half term
3	3's, 4's, 9's & 11's	Every night	8 per week	1 per half term

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4	2's to 12's	Every night	10 per week	1 per half term
5	Known facts and decimals	Every night	10 per week	1 per half term
6	Known facts and decimals	Every night	10 per week	1 per half term