

Oxford Gardens Primary School



Home Learning Policy

What is Home Learning?

Home Learning is two-fold:

- i) **The actual Home Learning that the teachers at school have set for the pupils to complete at home – for KS1 and KS2 this is compulsory.**
- ii) **Learning experiences that the pupils have out of school which are developed by parents/carers.**

Rationale for home learning

- Home learning is a very important part of a child's education and can add much to a child's development.
- In 2011 the Department for Education removed guidance on homework for schools, leaving it to Heads to set policy as appropriate for their context. "Homework is part and parcel of a good education – along with high quality teaching and strong discipline. We trust Headteachers to set the homework policy for their school. They know their pupils best and should be free to make these decisions without having to adhere to unnecessary bureaucratic guidance." DFE March 2012
- Children benefit greatly from the mutual support of parents and teachers in encouraging them to learn both at home and at school. We see home learning as an important way of establishing a successful dialogue between teachers and parents in helping our children to become independent learners.
- Home learning can play a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment and rate of progress. We believe that children develop their skills, interests and talents to the full only when parents and teachers encourage them to make maximum use of the experiences and opportunities that are available both in and outside of school.

Aims and objectives

- To consolidate, reinforce and extend learning done in school and to allow children to practice skills taught in lessons.
- To enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development;
- To help pupils develop the skills of an independent learner.
- To help pupils develop good learning dispositions for the future and prepare them for Secondary School.
- To promote a partnership between home and school in supporting each child's learning.

The Role of Parents

- Parents have an important role in their child's education and home learning is a significant part of this partnership. We ask parents to encourage personal learning habits for life; this might involve discussing the work that their child is doing, encouraging high standards of presentation, enabling the child to use libraries and electronic media for research as well as providing their child with the sort of environment that supports them to benefit from learning beyond school.
- To encourage your child to actively seek their home learning if they are absent on a Friday.
- If appropriate, to write a comment to the teacher on the level of support the child has received from home with the task/work.
- To complete your child's reading journal/log 3 times per week.
- If parents have any questions or concerns about home learning, they should contact the child's teacher who will be able to advise them further.

Using Technology at Home:

It has been proven that in primary schools, ICT has a positive impact on Teaching & Learning. Home learning can provide an amazing opportunity for the creative use of ICT to be explored. Multi-media programs, photography, filming, animation and programming applications provide a wealth of resources that can be used as creative learning tools. Inspire your child to present their experiences with you at home.

Mobile devices provide home access to a vast wealth of digital content. Experiment with apps and games which have educational content such as maths, phonics, programming, e-books etc. It is also worth using websites such as CBBC to access news articles and other information/videos etc. Every child has their own login for the London Grid for Learning (LGFL) – each pupil's login and password is written in their home learning books. This website has an online wealth of resources, games and learning tools to support and enhance their learning. In particular we recommend that the pupils use J2blast, Purple Mash, Busy Things and Maths at Home. Each child from Year 1 to Year 6 has a TT Rockstars login, it has been proven that children playing on this for 5 minutes a day 5 times a week have a quicker and accurate recall of times tables facts. Every child has a login and password which is written inside their Maths homework book.

When is Home Learning handed out and expected to be handed in?

In all classes home learning tasks will be given out weekly on a Friday and need to be handed in by the following Wednesday.

What will happen if Home Learning is not done properly?

Home learning in Reception is not compulsory therefore no action will be taken by the teacher if home learning is not completed.

Any home learning that has not been completed, in KS1 or KS2, or if a teacher feels it has not been completed satisfactorily needs to be completed in the classroom during their lunch time on a Friday – this is called Home Learning Detention.

How is Home Learning marked?

Children are awarded merits for their home learning. They can receive up to 3 merits for each of the writing and maths homework. Children can get up to 10 merits for their half termly IPC home learning project.

THE FOLLOWING RELATES TO i) THE ACTUAL HOME LEARNING THAT THE TEACHERS AT SCHOOL HAVE SET FOR THE PUPILS TO COMPLETE AT HOME – FOR KS1 & KS2 THIS IS COMPULSORY

Reception:

- Children should be read with on a nightly basis for at least 5 minutes and then to recorded this in their Reading Record
- Once your child is ready for a reading book they will be given one each week to take home, they should read this everyday and bring their Reading Folders into school everyday
- Pupils will be given sound cards and/or key vocab cards on a regular basis
- 1 x Home Learning task will be given each week – this will either be literacy, numeracy or a task linked to their current IPC topic.

Key Stage 1:

- 5 x 15 minutes reading each week (Year 1 and 2 change their books every Monday and Thursday)
- Spellings to learn for weekly test and a phonics activity based on these words
- 1 x Home Learning task per week – this will be alternated between literacy and numeracy
- Home learning project – 1 for each IPC unit – these are not compulsory

- Extension tasks – the teachers will show the children in class any activities on Igfl or other websites that can be accessed at home.

Lower Key Stage 2:

- 5 x 20 minutes reading each week
- Spellings to learn for weekly test
- 2 x Home Learning tasks (approx. 20-30 mins) per week – one literacy and one numeracy
- Home learning project – 1 for each IPC unit – these are not compulsory
- Extension tasks – the teachers will show the children in class any activities on Igfl or other websites that can be accessed at home.

Upper Key Stage 2:

- 5 x 20 minutes reading each week
- Spellings to learn for weekly test
- 2 x Home Learning tasks (approx. 30-45 mins) per week – one literacy and one numeracy
- Home learning project – 1 for each IPC unit – these are not compulsory
- Extension tasks – the teachers will show the children in class any activities on Igfl or other websites that can be accessed at home.

*There may be certain times in the year when children are given additional Home Learning – in particular in Year 6 when the children are approaching their SATs and this is at the discretion of the class teacher.

Spellings

Key Stage 1:

Children in Key Stage 1 will receive their spelling words (up to 10) from their phonics teacher. All KS1 children will receive their spelling words on a Friday and will be tested on them the following Friday.

Key Stage 2:

Depending on the class, children will receive up to 12 spelling words a week – once they have been given the words they will have at least 3 days to learn them – classes will have tests on different days, the day of your child's test will, where possible, be the same each week.

THE FOLLOWING RELATES TO ii) LEARNING EXPERIENCES THAT THE PUPILS HAVE OUT OF SCHOOL WHICH ARE DEVELOPED BY PARENTS/CARERS.

In order for a child to really achieve their potential their learning should take place both at home and at school. The vast majority of parents want to do their best for their children but we are aware that many are unsure of how to do this and struggle to do so.

There are so many different ways parents can help their child/ren with their learning throughout their whole time at Primary school (and of course from before this time and beyond).

Here are just a few of the ways you can support your child with Home Learning:

- a) Developing adult-child relationships that are loving, warm and responsive –this involves; listening, responding and talking; engaging in shared thinking as a normal part of daily life - explaining, speculating, describing, making connections and open questioning.
- b) Giving opportunities and encouragement to explore and develop independence whilst offering support when needed.

- c) Providing real experiences that make sense to children and including children in everyday routines by giving your child/ren opportunities to learn in meaningful, enjoyable contexts (e.g. – measuring and weighing with cooking; handling money when shopping).
- d) Going on visits. We are lucky to live in such a vibrant and exciting city that is incredibly rich with what it has to offer, most museums and galleries are free and the majority have special events on during school holidays.
- e) Creating opportunities for children to have friends to play – this is crucial for developing your child's social skills.
- f) Recognising success and praising to build confidence and self-esteem.
- g) Oral storytelling - sharing stories at home about everyday life, past experiences etc.
- h) Using a wide variety of texts - reading with and to children and encouraging a discussion of the texts that have been read.

The school is 100% committed to helping parents with home learning and to help with this each Key Stage 2 class will have a home learning club once a week after school.

July 2019

Signature of Headteacher _____
Review July 2021