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Homework Policy



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Rationale

Streethay Primary School is committed to setting regular homework appropriate to the age, needs and experiences of the child. The purpose of homework changes as children progress through the school. Short activities of different kinds - simple games, learning spellings, research, number facts and reading together - provide a very important opportunity for young children to talk about what they are learning to an interested adult and to practise key skills in a supportive and secure environment. As children get older homework provides an opportunity for children to develop the skills of independent learning and to consolidate basic skills. As children progress through Key Stage Two they should be encouraged to work for regular, short periods, by themselves.

Aims

The aims of the school's homework policy are to:

- ensure that there is a consistent approach to homework throughout the school.
- ensure that parents and carers understand the school's expectations of themselves and their children regarding homework.
- prepare children in Year 6 for secondary transfer.

The aims of homework are to:

- extend and support learning through preparation, reinforcement and revision.
- encourage children to develop confidence, self-discipline, independence and a sense of responsibility for their own learning.
- provide opportunities for parents and children to enjoy learning together.

There is clear communication of homework to parents using the weekly class newsletter. This will be placed weekly on the school website www.streethayprimary.org.uk as well as on each child's Family. In Key Stage 2, homework will also be placed on each child's Showbie account.

The type of work that will be sent home

For homework to be really effective there needs to be involvement of parents / carers for some of the time. It is important that there is a balance of tasks and activities that are achievable by the children and that feedback is manageable for the teacher. Homework will combine both set weekly tasks and encouraged tasks for over school holidays.

How parents can help support children

Homework encourages children to develop a sense of personal responsibility for their learning and helps them to develop as independent learners. Parents have a vital role to play in supporting and encouraging children to complete their homework. It will really help children if parents/carers can:

- provide somewhere peaceful for children to work without the distractions of television, other family members and pets.
- provide a suitable place, equipped with resources and materials appropriate to the task.
- encourage and support children when they need it.
- support the school in explaining to children that homework is valued and aids learning.
- encourage pupils and praise them when homework is completed and be actively involved in the homework of younger children in particular.

School will help support parents by:

- Ensuring that homework is manageable and reflective of what the children have been learning in class.
- Ensuring that homework is set on a Friday to be completed by the following Thursday so that children and parents know when to expect homework and when it should be returned.
- Providing short guides to teaching methods in things such as maths, spelling, reading and phonics and providing workshops or more personalized advice for parents if necessary.
- Providing homework in such a way, to ensure ease of completion away from the school environment.
- In Key Stage 2, providing iPad technology for children to complete homework electronically.

Homework that will be provided

Each week, on a Friday, every class across the school will receive a Learning Newsletter from their teacher. This newsletter will inform them of activities they can complete at home linked to their learning that week. Some of these activities may be more formal and written. Some will be more informal, and require discussions or activities as a family.

In KS1 and KS2, the following homework will always be set weekly:

Reading:

Reading is a vital part of homework for all pupils within the school and the expectation is that they will read daily. Particularly for younger pupils, this needs to be supported by an adult. A record of reading completed should be written into this diary daily and

signed by an adult. The diary should be brought to and from school by children each day.

Spellings:

In EYFS and KS1, children will receive spellings weekly, linked to their Little Wandle Phonics teaching.

In KS2 pupils will be set spellings every 2 weeks. These will be tested twice to allow us to see improvement and progress in children's ability to spell these words.

Writing:

Pupils in KS1 and KS2 will be provided with a variety of different English based tasks. Sometimes this may be a weekly punctuation or grammar activity relevant to their age and stage in learning. Sometimes this will be a free writing task, allowing them to write more freely and experiment with the skill they are developing within the school setting.

Mathematics:

Pupils in KS1 may be set short maths activities relating to building fluency and knowledge of basic number facts.

Pupils in KS2 may be set weekly maths activities linked to their weekly lessons. This may include a video to support parents and children.

Children will also be expected to complete some time on Numbots (KS1) or Times Table Rock Stars (KS2). For TT Rock Stars. It is recommended that pupils play for 5 minutes daily using the 'Garage' game, which provides children with personalised questions, based on online assessments.

Feedback for pupils, parents/carers

In KS2, homework completion of set tasks via Showbie will be recognised by teachers through a general comment. Teachers will make clear to children and parents how the completion of set homework tasks extends and supports learning through preparation, reinforcement and revision. Teachers will monitor homework completion and encourage children to develop confidence, self-discipline, independence and a sense of responsibility for their own learning as a result of completing both set and encouraged tasks.

It is important that feedback about homework is given to children as quickly as possible. This may be given in a number of ways:

- Recognition of completion.
- Immediately by parents or carers
- Discussion in class where homework is a part of the class work.
- Verbal feedback to children by the teacher.
- Certificates in assembly and/or house point to acknowledge effort.

Feedback from parents/carers

Teachers are always interested to know how children carried out activities, please have any conversations with your child's teaching team if there have been any issues, difficulties with the homework.

Non-completion of homework

In Year 6, all children are expected to complete their set homework tasks and submit these to their teacher by the deadline set. If homework is not being regularly completed over a half term period the teacher will contact parents to discuss the reasons. If the problem continues parents will be invited to a meeting with the phase leader.

For the rest of the children in school, completion of homework is not compulsory, but highly recommended. It is also so important that you engage with your child about their learning at school and discuss the themes and topics they are learning about, to further develop the links between home and school.

If your child completes any activities, clubs, additional work at home or visits anywhere of interest, we would love to hear about it! Please send this through via Family or Showbie so that we can talk to them about it at school.

We recognise that for some families and pupils the completion of homework may require further support from school and in such circumstances we will seek to work with families and pupils in accordance with our school vision statement and the aims of this policy to enable all pupils to access homework and develop positive independent work habits.



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