



Name of Policy:

Homework Policy

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Introduction

Homework is a valuable part of a child's education which extends classroom practice and encourages personal achievement and positive attitudes to school life.

This document should be read in conjunction with the school's Teaching and Learning Policy which you can find displayed on our website.

Aims

Our aims in setting homework are that:

- It is a preparation for the demands of secondary school life
- A child develops the skills of an independent learner
- It should build a self- motivating and positive attitude to learning
- It provides worthwhile and meaningful tasks
- It helps develop self esteem
- Parents have the opportunity to take an active interest in their child's learning by giving support and encouragement
- Offers opportunities to explore further the full spectrum of the school curriculum.

Homework might include:

- Reading practice
- Research skills
- Number practice – including multiplication tables
- Reinforcement tasks covering work practised in class
- Extension work and research activities to enhance study by making use of out of school material
- Handwriting practice for formal writing.

Guidelines

Reading

In Years 3 and 4 children will be expected to take books home daily to read independently or shared with an adult at least three times a week. All children in Years 5 and 6 should be encouraged to read regularly, in particular on nights when other homework is not set. Adults should remember to sign the reading record/homework diary every time a child has set aside a time to read. This is monitored and checked in class.

Multiplication Tables

All children will regularly be asked to practice multiplication tables. Children are awarded Platinum, Gold, Silver and Bronze Certificates when they have learnt their tables.

Year 3

Our homework reinforces topics taught that week in English, maths, science, history or geography.

Weekly homework:

- Reading at home at least three times per week. This is to be signed by a parent/carer. English (thirty minutes per week)
- A Spelling Shed based on the sounds we are teaching (ten to fifteen minutes) three times per week.

- Times Tables Rockstars (ten minutes) three times per week, and
- One Mathematics task per week.

Termly Homework:

- Autumn Science: Health and Wellbeing journal
- Spring Geography: Local area research project
- Summer History: Design project (tbc).

We will be giving the children their login details (stuck in the front of their reading records) and training them how to use these programmes in our Computing sessions over the next couple of weeks.

Year 4

Children will be set thirty minutes of English (Spelling Shed) and thirty minutes of maths (TTRS **and/or** Mathematics). In the summer term, children will be getting ten minutes of a Spag mat inside their English homework to prepare them for Year 5. If not completed, children will be asked to go to the Catch-Up Zone.

In Year 4, children will receive two pieces of homework per week. It will be spelling on Tuesday and maths on Wednesday: thirty minutes of Spelling Shed and thirty minutes of Times Table Rockstars and/or Mathematics. One Friday per half term additional homework will be given which will be topic or foundation based, and will need to be handed in on a date later in the term. If homework is not completed on time, pupils will go to the Catch-Up Zone and will be asked to do the homework at home. Year 4 do not have a Homework Diary.

Year 5

Children will be set forty-five minutes of English, forty-five minutes of Maths, forty-five minutes per week over a few weeks of topic based project homework - details given for each separate project.

Monday- forty minutes of English will be set including Spelling Shed and SPaG mat which will be due in on Wednesday.

Wednesday- forty minutes of Maths will be set including Times Table Rock Stars (TTRS) and Mathematics which will be due in on Friday.

Friday- Topic projects will be given approximately two times every half term. They are expected to spend about forty to sixty minutes per week. Deadlines will vary depending on the project.

Homework needs to be recorded by the child in their homework diaries and signed by a parent or carer.

If homework is not completed on time children will go to the Catch-Up Zone until work is handed in but will be asked to do the homework at home.

Reading

We ask children to read at least three times per week and write down the reading record what they have read and how many pages. We ask for parents/carers to sign and date individually each time they read and their reading record must be handed in every Wednesday. They will be asked to go to the Catch-Up Zone if this is not handed in completed.

We ask you to avoid reading at home the books we study in class which are:

“Wolf Wilder” by Katherine Rundell

“How to Save the World with a Chicken and an Egg” by Emma Shevah

“Can You See Me?” by Libby Scott and Rebecca Westcott

Times tables

Please practise times tables at home and we will test them in class so they can work towards their certificates. The children will be set regular times tables practice using Times Tables Rockstars and the expectation is that this will form part of their Maths homework and should be completed a minimum of three times per week. They may have other battles and challenges set and they will be advised of this for recording in to their homework diaries, as required. For more information about how we teach maths and measure times tables, go to the [Maths link](#).

Year 6

Children will normally receive two pieces of homework per week and should spend forty minutes on each piece with an additional six topic homework pieces per term.

- English homework will be given on Tuesday for return on Thursday which includes a Spelling Shed task.
- Maths homework will be given on Wednesday for return on Friday
- Topic homework will be set six times per term.

Homework needs to be recorded by the child in their homework diaries and signed by a parent or carer and handed in on **Monday** morning. If homework is not completed on time children will go to the Catch-Up Zone until work is handed in but will be asked to do the homework at home.

Reading

We ask children to read at least three times per week. Please discuss the children's books with them- characters, plot, predictions, and motivations of characters. There are no reading records in Year 6; children should record their reading in their homework diary in preparation for secondary school and must be handed in every **Monday** morning. They will be asked to go to the Catch-Up Zone if this is not consistently handed in or completed.

Holiday Work- whole school

The school will not set homework in the holidays; however, there are many things that can be done during the holidays without formal setting of homework. We would encourage parents to attempt some of the following:

- Reading with your children
- Learning multiplication tables
- Making use of local libraries to research work planned to take place after the holidays
- Visiting places of educational interest, such as museums.
- Keeping a diary
- Using the internet and educational website

Guidance to support the policy

The Teacher

Homework is school policy that is managed by the class teacher. To implement the principles which support our policy, each teacher is required to:

- Set homework for their teaching groups as specified in the homework procedures for each year group
- Ensure that the homework is appropriate to the learning capabilities of each child
- Collect and mark homework regularly
- Contact parents of children that regularly fail to complete homework assignments
- Ensure that the children in their teaching groups enter their homework in the Reading Record book or Homework Diary.

The Child

The child also has responsibilities and it is often an important part of the learning process that these are discussed and explained to them.

- Each child should record their homework in their Reading Record book (Years 3 & 4) or Homework Diary (Years 5 & 6)
- Each child has an obligation to attempt to do their homework and return it at the agreed time.
- Each child should see their teacher if they have difficulty in completing homework. This is so appropriate support can be given and a revised date for handing it in can be agreed.

The Parent or Guardian

Research has shown that a child's progress is enhanced through the involvement of their parents. It is therefore evident that homework provides an opportunity for parents to take a supportive role in their child's education.

- Parents should establish a routine that makes homework an important aspect of family life
- They should attempt to provide a quiet and suitable environment for homework to be done
- They should try to share aspects of homework such as reading or assistance in learning tables
- They should not find themselves doing the homework for their child
- They should not allow the child to work for excessive periods of time.
- If the work is not completed in the suggested time, then the child should see the teacher for advice and support, not work all night!

Homework – Consistency of Practice



- Reading records must be checked, signed and house points awarded. Three house points per day. (No more than twenty-one points per week).
- Homework diaries are checked weekly.
- Group teachers set, collect and mark* their own group's homework.
- Group Teachers must have clear sanctions and consequences for:
 - non-completion of homework
 - non-completion of minimum reading target (Three times per week)
 - non-handing in of Reading Record or Homework Diary
- The sanctions for non-completion of homework must be followed up i.e. kept in for play, complete homework in workroom at lunchtime or homework sent home to be redone / completed.
- Distribution – Marking and use of Homework Books is consistent across the year group.
- Learning objective must be clearly visible on all homework
- Colouring and 'writing out' should not be the majority of the task (unless it is art homework). Editing and re-drafting is permitted.
- Homework should be challenging, relevant and consolidating.
- The homework should follow on from classwork covered in school. Examples must be shown in class or examples given on the homework sheet itself.
- Teachers will explain the homework in class before/during its distribution.
- Repeated non-completion of homework must be reported to the Head or Deputy and a letter sent to the parents reiterating that the home/school agreement includes ensuring homework is completed on time, fully and to an acceptable standard.

*Defined answers in homework i.e. a mental maths test have clearly defined answers that may be marked by a TA or support staff if that staff member is happy to mark them.

Date

Dear Parent / Carer

I am writing regarding your child _____ as they have now failed to complete homework set on several occasions. I would like to remind you that as part of the Wallace Fields Junior School parent/school agreement, it is your responsibility to allow your child the time and space to complete the homework on time, fully and to an acceptable standard.

The homework is clearly set out, and the deadlines are set to be met. The homework policy is on our school website and we strongly believe that homework not only consolidates the learning completed in the classroom but importantly gets your child ready for homework in secondary school.

Please contact me or write a note in the homework diary/reading record if there is a specific reason why your child is not completing the homework as sometimes there are extenuating circumstances that effect children and their ability to complete the work set.

I am keen to gain your support in your child's learning and hope that all future homework will be completed fully, on time and to a high enough standard. Thank you for your cooperation on this matter.

Yours