

Home Learning Policy

June 2016

**What are the aims of this policy?**

* To ensure a consistent approach to home learning throughout the school.
* To ensure that teachers, parents/carers and children have a clear understanding regarding expectations for home learning.
* To ensure that teachers, parents/carers and children are fully aware of the role they play with regard to home learning.

**What is the purpose of home learning?**

* To consolidate, reinforce and extend skills and understanding, particularly in Literacy and Numeracy.
* To provide opportunities for parents/carers and children to work together.
* To allow parents /carers to gain an understanding of what children are learning in school.
* To allow children to progress towards becoming more independent learners.

**What is the role of the school?**

* To provide parents/carers with a clear policy regarding home learning.
* To ensure the policy is fully and consistently followed.
* To provide support for parents/carers with information about home learning.
* To provide support for children with the running of a home learning club.

**What is the role of the teacher?**

* To plan and set a programme of homework that is appropriate to the needs of the child.
* To ensure all children understand the home learning they have been given.
* To mark and give feedback about home learning.
* To be available to talk to parents/carers and children about home learning.
* To inform parents/carers if there is a problem regarding home learning.

**What is the role of the parent/carer?**

* To support the child in completing the home learning.
* To ensure the child completes the home learning to a high standard and hands it in on time.
* To provide the appropriate conditions for the child to complete the home learning.
* To provide the appropriate resources for the child to complete the home learning.

**What is the role of the child?**

* To ensure they have everything they need to complete home learning each week.
* To make sure they understand the tasks that they have been set.
* To put in the same level of effort as would be expected of class work.
* To hand the home learning in on time.
* To take on board any feedback about home learning.

**Home learning in Foundation Stage**

Learning together is the emphasis for children in foundation stage. The activities are Literacy and Numeracy based with a strong emphasis on reading together. It is an ideal time to lay foundations for continuing work at home.

**What type of home learning will my child get?**

**Reading**

Starting in the autumn term and continuing all year, the main emphasis is on reading at home. This should be done in two ways:-

* **Adults reading to children.**

Parents/carers are encouraged to use the library boxes in the foundation stage classrooms. These boxes contain books that are suitable to read to children, so they can get used to print and stories. Parents/carers should encourage children to point to words as they are being read. Discussion about the books is also important.

* **Children reading to an adult.**

Initially children will bring home picture books without text. Discussing the pictures and encouraging the child to tell the story through the pictures will help with the child’s understanding of language. Then when they are ready to, children will start brining books home to read to an adult. Again, encouraging the children to point to the words as they are being read is important. Discussing the story and the characters and asking questions about the book will help with the child’s understanding of language.

**Letter formation.**

As the children begin to learn the initial phonic letter sounds the class teacher will send home worksheets to enable the child to practise saying and writing the correct letter formation of the new sound. The important thing is to watch them and correct any mistakes sensitively, so they don’t fall into bad habits.

**Red words.**

There are some words that cannot be decoded by sounding out – we call these our red words. These words have to be learned to read by sight. Teachers will send home the red words that the children need to practise at intervals, as they move through our reading programme. Regularly practising reading these words, looking out for them in reading books and playing games with them, will really benefit the child. For some children, it will be really useful to practise writing the words as well as reading them.

**Numeracy.**

Children will be given a list of important numeracy skills when they enter Foundation Stage called our Maths Passport. Parents/carers can support their child by giving them lots of opportunities to practise these skills through, for example, playing games and singing songs. We encourage parents/carers to initial the skills their child has achieved.

**How much time should be spent on home learning in Foundation Stage?**

Approximately 15 minutes per day. Reading a minimum of 5 times a week.

**Home learning in key Stage 1**

For children in Key Stage 1, we encourage parents/carers to work together with their child to support them with their homework. The emphasis remains on Literacy and reading, and ways in which children can be supported with important numeracy skills through our Maths Passport.

**What type of home learning will my child get?**

**Reading**

Reading on a regular basis is vital when children are in year one and two. Children will bring their reading books home every evening, and the role of the adult is to listen and support them. It is important to remind them to use different strategies to read new words i.e. using their phonic knowledge to sound words out, looking at pictures and looking for words within words, are ways which the child can read an unknown word. Just as important is discussing the book to check that the child has understood what they have read. Children will have a Reading Challenge Record which parents/carers should sign or comment in each time they read with the child. To encourage home reading children will work through a rainbow of Reading Challenge sheets, collecting badges as they go.

**Numeracy**

Children will be given a list of important numeracy skills in their Maths Passport when they enter key Stage 1, building on those from the Foundation Stage. Parents/carers can support their child by giving them lots of opportunities to practise these skills through, for example, playing board games and initialling when the child is competent at a skill.

**Spelling**

Children in year 2 may choose to take home their spelling log to learn words for the weekly class spelling challenge.

**How much time should be spent on home learning in year 1 and year 2?**

Approximately 15-20 minutes per day. Reading a minimum of 5 times a week.

**Home learning in Key Stage 2**

As children get older, home learning provides an opportunity for them to develop the skill of independent learning. It is important that parents/carers support their children, but that good habits of independent study should be encouraged.

The main focus for home learning in Key Stage 2 continues to be Reading, Literacy and Numeracy.

**What type of home learning will my child get?**

**Reading**

Children may read to an adult or older sibling, with an adult or to themselves. The story and characters should be talked about and new words discussed. Children need a clear understanding of the text that sometimes will go beyond their literal understanding. Children will read texts that are more detailed and will take longer to read. They should be encouraged to read all types of text including non-fiction (school reading book and their own books; newspapers and magazines). Parents/carers should continue to complete their child’s Reading Challenge Record (Year 3) /Reading record (Year 4, 5 and 6) to show that they have read to an adult or had a discussion about the book.

**Literacy**

This will based around what the children have been learning in class. It could be spelling, punctuation or grammar. They may be asked to read something and answer questions. Sometimes the task will be a piece of writing.

**Spelling**

Children in KS2 may choose to take home their spelling log to learn words for the weekly class spelling challenge.

**Numeracy**

This will also be based around what the children have been learning in class. The work could be linked to lessons on shape, measures or data handling. Lots of the activities will be based around number work.

The children will continue to develop their Numeracy skills with their Maths Passport, with several, increasingly challenging, lists of skills. Parents/carers are encouraged to support their child with these skills and initial when they are competent.

**How much time should be spent on home learning in Key Stage 2?**

**Years 3 and 4**

Reading 20-30 minutes per day. A minimum of 5 times a week.

One 15 minute task in Literacy or Numeracy per week.

**Years 5 and 6**

Reading 30 minutes per day. A minimum of 5 times a week.

One 30 minute task in Literacy or Numeracy per week.

**Family Home Learning**

Each term all children will be set a creative family home learning linked to our whole school topic. Family home learning is optional, it is creative and allows for the whole family to work on a project together. There is usually a choice of home learning to complete and prizes to celebrate collaboration, creativity and effort.

**Frequently asked questions**

**How can parents/carers find out more about home learning?**

To help parents/carers and children all home learning will be due in on a Friday.

Teachers will have different systems for handing in home learning and they will tell parents/carers and children about this at the beginning of the year.

If parents/carers need advice on how to support their children with home learning then they can speak to the child’s class teacher.

Reading and Numeracy parent workshops will be available in the Autumn term.

**Why will children sometimes be given extra home learning?**

Children who receive additional support, such as one to one, will sometimes be given extra home learning to reinforce the working being done. Children should complete this alongside their normal home learning.

**What will happen if children don’t complete their home learning?**

The expectation is that children will complete their home learning. However if for any reason children are unable to complete their home learning, parents/carers should provide the class teacher with a note or contact the class teacher explaining why the homework has not been completed on the day the home learning was due to be returned to school. Teachers will keep records of children completing home learning and these records will be checked on a regular basis. A comment will also be made on children’s annual report.

Opportunities to complete home learning will be available in Foundation Stage and Key stage 1 during sharing time in the morning. A home learning club will be available at one lunchtime per week for Key Stage 2 children to attend to complete their home learning.

Children not completing their minimum number reads per week (5) will miss the some or all of their golden time on a Friday afternoon in order to make up the missed reading time.

**What if a child says they have received no home learning?**

If there is any reason why a child has not been set home learning, the teacher will inform parents/carers. If parents/carers are unsure they should check with the class teacher.

**How will the home learning be marked?**

All home learning will be marked. Most often the work will be marked orally, with the teacher discussing answers and the children self-annotating their own work with our purple marking pens. On other occasions the work will be initialled by the class teacher to show they have marked it.