



Homework Policy

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Background

What is the purpose of homework?

- To consolidate, reinforce and extend skills and understanding, particularly in Literacy and Numeracy.
- To provide opportunities for parents and children to work together.
- To allow parents 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 with a clear policy regarding homework.
- To ensure this policy is fully and consistently followed.
- To provide support for parents with information about homework.
- To provide support for children and parents with who may struggle to complete homework.

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 homework they have been given.
- To mark and give feedback about homework.
- To be available to talk to parents and children about homework.
- To inform parents if there is a problem regarding homework.

What is the role of the parent / carer?

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

What is the role of the child?

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

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Homework in Reception

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

What type of work will my child get?

Reading

Parents will be informed of the theme that the children are learning in school each half term. 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 are encouraged to use the Library boxes in the reception classrooms. These boxes contain books that are suitable to read to children, so they can get used to print and stories. Parents should encourage children to point to words as they are being read. Discussion about the books is also important.

- **Children reading to an adult**

When they are ready to, children will start bringing books home to read to an adult. Again, encouraging the child 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

At the beginning of the child's first term in Reception, the class teacher will provide parents with a sheet to support children with letter formation. This shows where to start and finish when forming each letter and what each letter should look like. Giving children the opportunity to practise forming letters and also developing drawing skills with a variety of different tools will give them valuable practice. The important thing is to watch them and correct any mistakes sensitively, so they don't fall into bad habits.

Tricky Words

Children learn to read tricky words. After the children have learned the tricky words in each phase parents will be sent a list of the words the children have learned. Regularly practising reading them, looking out for the words in reading books and playing games with them, will really benefit the child. For some children, it will be useful to practise writing the words as well as reading them. The teachers may send home games to give parents some ideas. It would be useful if these words were practiced on a regular basis in the summer holiday before year 1, as well as parents continuing to share books with their child.

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How much time should be spent on homework?

Reception	Approx 15 minutes per day (depending upon the child's level) on Literacy based activities including reading.
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Homework in Key Stage 1

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

What type of work 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 phonics knowledge to sound words out, looking at the pictures and looking for words within words, are ways in 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 record which parents/carers should sign or comment in each time they read with the child.

Spelling / High Frequency Words

Children will have daily phonics lessons throughout Key Stage 1, which will also include ways that children can build up a secure sight vocabulary. It is vital that children build up a bank of words which they can read and spell on sight. Children will bring home some words each week for them to read, write and learn. Parents can help children to learn these, by practising them regularly and often. Children will often receive the same words again in order to practise them further. Children should have the opportunity to practice their words over the summer holidays.

Numeracy

Children will be given homework to develop important numeracy skills. Parents can support their child by giving them lots of opportunities to practise these skills. By the end of year 2:-

- Children should be confident in their 2, 5 and 10 times tables. They should be able to say them in order and mixed up.
- Children should be able to double each number up to 20.
- Children should be able to halve each even number up to 20.
- Children should know their number bonds of all numbers up to 20. This means they should know how to make each number, for example 5 can be made by 0+5, 1+4, 2+3, 3+2, 4+1, 5+0
- Children should be able to tell the time when it is o'clock, half past, quarter to and quarter past on digital and analogue clocks.

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- Children should be confident when using money. They should know the names of the coins and they should have experience of adding, taking away and finding change.

Teachers will sometimes send home key number facts and shape names to learn.

How much time should be spent on homework?

Year 1 & 2	Reading 10-15 minutes daily Numeracy 10-15 minutes per week Spelling 5 minutes daily
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Homework in Key Stage 2

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

The main focus for homework in Key Stage 2 continues to be Literacy and Numeracy, however children will be given more varied tasks in other areas of the curriculum.

What type of work will my child get?

Reading

Children may read to an adult, with an adult or read to themselves, in the presence of an adult. The story and characters should be talked about and new words discussed. Older children need a clear understanding of the text that sometimes will go beyond the literal meaning. Children will read texts that are more detailed and will take longer to read. They should be encouraged to read all types of texts including non-fiction. Parents should continue to complete their child's reading record to show that they have read to an adult or had a discussion about the book.

Literacy

This will be based around what the children will be learning in class. The work could be based on spelling or punctuation. They may be asked to read something and answer questions. Sometimes the task will be a piece of writing.

Numeracy

This will also be based around what the children will be learning in class. The work could be linked to lessons on shape, measures or handling data. Lots of the activities will be based around number work. Children will be asked to make sure they know their tables from 2 to 12. They should be able to recite them and answer mixed questions.

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Topic

Each half term, all the children in Key Stage 2 will be set a piece of homework. Work could be linked to any other curriculum area, Science, Geography, History and so on. It could take many forms, preparing a talk, completing a piece of research or conducting an interview. The nature of this work may be more open ended than in other areas. Children will be given an appropriate time to complete this work.

How much time should be spent on homework?

Year 3 & 4	Reading 15-20 minutes daily Literacy 15-20 minutes per week Numeracy 15-20 minutes per week Topic 20-30 minutes per task
Year 5 & 6	Reading 20-30 minutes daily Literacy 20-30 minutes per week Numeracy 20-30 minutes per week Topic 30-45 minutes per task