



Homework Policy

At our school, we believe that homework:

- Consolidates learning
- Encourages independence and helps pupils devise routines
- Helps with organisational skills
- Prepares children for secondary school
- Increases motivation
- Supports topic work
- Encourages links between subjects of the curriculum and, in some cases, improves use of ICT
- Encourages parental involvement
- Improves communication so that parents are aware what their children are learning
- Extend pupils' thinking - more able pupils often enjoy research and taking work in a new direction

We also believe that children have the right to play and to enjoy non-academic activities at home and outdoors. There should be time for relaxation and families to be together. It is difficult, but balance needs to be achieved.

Parents have a vital role to play in their child's education, and homework is an important part of this process. We ask parents to encourage their child to complete the homework tasks that are set. We invite them to help their children as they feel necessary and provide them with the sort of environment that allows children to do their best. Parents can support their child by providing a good working space at home, by enabling their child to visit the library regularly and by discussing the work that their child is doing.

We recognise that homework can be an area that causes anxiety and disagreement in families and if this is the case we would encourage parents to inform us of their concerns. Please be assured that teachers usually know the children really well and plan homework to suit a range of abilities. Some pupils will try a range of strategies to avoid working at home and we appreciate all efforts to support them.

Homework should not be a huge issue between parents and children. If a child has genuinely tried to complete the homework set and cannot do it, an attempt should be made for a short while (no more than 30 minutes) and then a note made on the homework.

We would encourage parents to use traffic lights to inform teachers of support given:

- **Green** - completed independently
- **Amber** - some support needed but was able to complete
- **Red** - adult support needed throughout and not understood by child

Marking and Feedback

Teachers will try to set and mark homework in a regular pattern. This is explained in the class information booklet sent home in September and reiterated in the termly curriculum letters. Reading contact books are checked regularly to monitor that the desired quantity of reading is occurring.

Presentation

It is expected that children will complete all homework tasks in pencil. They should present their work in the same way that they are expected to complete it in school.

Responsibilities

It is our expectation that homework will be completed carefully and on time. If a child does not complete homework at home, they will complete it in their own time at school. Teachers will offer opportunities through the week to provide support for children to help them with any homework that is confusing or difficult to complete. Where homework is frequently missing or not completed, late or of poor quality, the child's parents or carers will be contacted by the class teacher.

A note on Reading

Pupils undergo a very extensive range of reading based activities at school; the reading of the 'reading book' being just a very small part of this. With your support, we would expect that the bulk of individual reading / reading to an adult is done at home. Teaching of reading in school focuses more comprehensively on regular phonic sessions, guided reading, shared reading, reading for meaning and higher level reading skills.

Topic Homework

From time to time, homework may include a longer piece of work in response to a particular activity, such as topic work or an educational visit. Typically this will be making a model, carrying out some independent research or similar.

Holiday Homework

Children may be given tasks to complete during the holidays. These tasks may include the Reading Challenge and the Kingston Challenge over the summer holidays. Awards will be given in September when the children return.

Homework Expectations

The main focus of homework will be reading, spelling and numeracy, but may include research for topics, particularly as a child gets older. Occasionally children will bring home unfinished tasks to complete.

Set out below is the homework expectation for each year group:

Reception	Up to 1 hour per week	Sharing books; developing skills for reading and writing.
Year 1	1 hour per week	Language based homework, focusing on spellings and vocabulary.
Year 2	1 hour per week	Reading, spelling, English and number work with occasional home challenges.
Years 3 and 4	2 hours per week	Reading (at least x 5 per week) spelling and maths with occasional assignments in other subjects.
Years 5 and 6	Up to 2.5 hours per week	Year 5 & 6: Reading (daily) spelling and maths. Year 6: English

This information forms part of our Home/school Agreement which is signed by parents and pupils each year.

This policy was written following consultation with parents (parent questionnaires) and will be reviewed every 2 years.