

Homework Policy (Taken from the School Website Apr 18)

As a school we value parents and carers as partners in their child's learning. Education research tells us that if a child sees that parents are enthusiastic about education they are far more likely to view their schooling in a positive light and be more receptive to learning. Therefore, in consultation with parents, pupils, staff and governors we continue to review and develop our approach to Homework so that it is most effective.

Our Aims:

- To provide opportunities for parents, children and the school to work together in relation to children's learning
- To improve the quality of the learning experience offered to children and extend it beyond the classroom environment
- To reinforce work covered in class by providing further opportunities for each child to practise or consolidate basic skills and knowledge, especially in English and Maths
- To encourage our children to develop the responsibility, confidence and self-discipline needed to study independently
- To prepare year 5 and 6 children for the transfer to secondary school
- To ensure a consistent approach throughout the school, appropriate to the key stage of the child

The Nature of Homework

Homework should complement classroom learning and build on children's basic English and Maths skills. It should also present children with an opportunity to extend their classroom learning through interest and enthusiasm for a topic.

In setting homework we use the following principles;

1. The nature and type of homework changes throughout a child's school career
2. Amount and frequency of homework should increase as a child gets older
3. There should be clearly communicated expectations of when to expect homework and when it should be completed
4. Homework should not cause undue stress to the child, family or teacher

Homework Support

As a school we want to support children effectively with homework tasks, and provide guidance for parents on how best they can help their child's learning at home. Following consultation with children, parents and staff the following points are agreed practice:

- The school will provide a 'Getting to know you' session at the start of each new school year to go through homework expectations. In EYFS, Years 1, 2, 3 and 4 teachers will provide a weekly newsletter to provide some information about the focus of learning that week and the homework activities. In years 5 and 6 this will be posted on the school website weekly and children have a homework diary to record what has been set on Fridays
- As part of parent curriculum evenings there will be an opportunity for parents to learn more strategies to support their child with their homework
- Children are encouraged to ask for support or clarification from their teacher if they need help when a homework task is set
- Teachers will provide examples in maths and book lists/website addresses to support and as appropriate
- At the discretion of the lead teacher, children in Key Stage 2 may have the opportunity to attend our weekly after school Homework Club which is supported by a teacher and teaching assistant
- We have invested in *MyMaths* an online maths tool to support parents by showing how strategies and concepts are taught. It will also be used to provide activities that children can complete which complement their classwork. If you would like to explore the site the username is **st_ebbes_ce_first_school** and the password is **square166**.

Homework Activities

Early Years Foundation Stage – Reception

Children should share a book at home every day either by being read to, having a go at 'reading' the pictures and words or discussing the illustrations. These books can be in any language and be stories or factual. When they are ready, the children bring home a reading diary with an appropriate level of book from our reading scheme. Parents are provided with 2 formal opportunities over the year to come and learn about how we teach reading and writing in Reception and are welcome to ask for advice when needed. Children will also bring home phonic bookmarks which will show you what sounds they are learning and gives an opportunity to practise these. Through our weekly newsletter we will inform you of the topics and areas of learning that we are working on and may suggest some activities to complement these at home.

Key Stage One – Years 1 & 2

Homework will consist of differentiated phonics to practise each week, and daily reading for approximately 10 minutes (reading practice should be recorded into their reading record, please).

In addition children will receive a termly maths booklet full of games and activities to play at home. This work does not need to be recorded.

Finally children are given 'Talk Homework' each week to prepare them for learning the following week. If children are enthusiastic about by a topic in class and produce work at home we encourage them to bring it into school to share and celebrate.

Key Stage Two Project Work – Years 3, 4, 5 & 6

In Key Stage 2 children will be expected to complete one piece of topic related project work over each long term (Autumn, Spring, Summer). They will be given a list of possible projects and the option to work on a project of their own choosing linked to the class topic. At the end of each term the projects will be celebrated in a class exhibition and children will be awarded a gold, silver or bronze certificate depending on their level of effort.

Lower Key Stage Two – Years 3 & 4

Children should still be reading daily for at least 15 minutes independently or aloud to an adult as appropriate. In addition children will receive weekly spellings to learn using Look, Cover, Write, Check. These will be tested using a dictation in class.

In maths the children will be expected to learn an appropriate Times Table to be tested weekly and a maths sheet or MyMaths activity to consolidate concepts taught during the week in class. The children each have a Homework Book to work in which is marked weekly.

Upper Key Stage Two – Years 5 & 6

We expect children to be developing a love of reading and reading a range of materials, independently. Children will be given a weekly piece of grammar homework and are expected to complete five meaningful spelling sentences. These must be given in on Wednesday.

Children will receive a pack of maths questions relating to the topic that each group has been covering in class. This homework will be due in on Wednesday and children will go through the homework in their maths groups on Thursday or Friday. It is essential that children complete the work as otherwise they will not be able to participate in the lesson. Occasionally we will replace these packs of questions with work set on the MYMATHS website. In years 5 & 6 children should be confident in all times tables but these may still need to be reinforced at home (for example, using MyMaths regularly).

Further to this we may occasionally give science or topic-based homework in preparation for our study of these subjects.

In preparation for the expectations at secondary school if homework is not completed children will be asked to complete the work during their break time.

Role of the Class Teacher

- To set regular homework in-line with agreed policy
- To ensure any homework is purposeful and links to the curriculum
- To set homework that matches children's needs and interests, and takes equal opportunities into account
- To mark homework promptly and/or give feedback to children

- To set an expectation that homework will be completed and to recognise and praise children who regularly complete homework tasks
- To provide an explanation of homework tasks to parents when necessary and give guidance about how they might help their child

Role of the Head teacher and Governing Body

- To check that the policy is being consistently implemented
- To discuss with staff how far the policy is being successfully implemented, and if necessary, how changes can be made
- To meet and talk with parents with regard to homework, when appropriate
- To inform new parents of the policy and homework expectations

Role of Parents and Carers

- To make it clear that they value homework and support the school by explaining how homework can help learning
- To support their child and the school by ensuring their child completes homework set
- To provide a suitable place for their child to carry out their homework
- To become actively involved by taking interest and supporting homework activities and encourage and praise their child for completing homework

Review

The Homework Policy is reviewed by staff and members of the Governing Body every three years following consultation with parents and pupils.