

HOMEWORK POLICY

The Governing Body sees homework as serving the following purposes:

- a) To encourage self-discipline and personal organisation.
- b) To create additional time for structured learning.
- c) To bridge the gap between home and school.
- d) To allow parents direct involvement in their child's learning.

The setting of tasks to be undertaken at home will be normal practice throughout the school.

The frequency and length of tasks will vary according to the age and needs of the child, and according to the programme of work at the time.

Tasks set will vary in their nature and will not necessarily be of a formal pencil and paper style.

Tasks may include amongst others e.g. reading, learning of tables, spellings or other materials, completion and/or extension of work begun in class, additional research, collecting information, and investigations.

If a parent feels that particular circumstances (e.g. prolonged absence from school) warrant additional homework this should be discussed with the class teacher. If the class teacher feels that additional work would be appropriate, adequate time will be allowed for work to be set and materials to be gathered. Additional homework will not normally be set simply because a child is being taken out of school for a family holiday.

Homework should be set for clearly defined purposes, not for its own sake.

It will rarely be appropriate for homework to be set for new work that has not been introduced in class.

Homework set should be followed up in class and it should be made clear to children that, unless clearly specified, homework tasks are not optional.

Presentation

The presentation of homework should be completed to the same standard as would be expected in school lessons. If a child is joining their writing in class, it is expected that they also use cursive (joined) writing in their homework. Pen is not permitted for completing homework tasks in Classes 1, 2, and 3. If a child in Class 4 wishes to write in pen, it must be blue or black ink and they must use cursive writing. ALL numeracy work must be completed in pencil.

With the exception of reading, most homework should be able to be completed by the child independently. Teachers will notify parents if support is required, e.g. holiday project homework. It is essential that children read aloud to parents regularly, even if

they are in the upper school. Reading aloud helps the children to internalise what they are reading and develops confidence when reading to an audience. It is a skill that should be developed throughout the school in preparation for secondary education.

Homework support

We all know that routine is key when approaching homework tasks. In general, homework should only take a few minutes each day. We would recommend that you set aside a regular time each day for your child to complete their homework. Ideally, this should be in a quiet area of the house with few distractions, e.g. at the kitchen table while parents are cooking. You will then be available should your child need support, but at a distance to encourage independence. Reading should be done with your child in an area with no distractions e.g. in the living room with the television off. This will enable you to see whether or not your child is reading with accuracy and understanding what they have read.

The following times are recommended for children in each class:

Class 1: 10 minutes reading; 10 minutes homework sheet/numbers

Class 2: 15 minutes reading; 15 minutes homework sheet/IXL

Class 3: 20 minutes reading (at least twice a week this should be out loud to an adult); 20 minutes homework sheet/IXL

Class 4: 25 minutes reading (at least twice a week this should be out loud to an adult); 25 minutes homework sheet/IXL

These times are guidelines and do not have to be done all at once in a session – perhaps have a break in between reading and other homework to give the children time to relax.

If your child is not able to complete their homework for whatever reason, please notify the teacher in writing in your child's homework diary.

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