



HOME LEARNING POLICY SEPTEMBER 2018

Policy Originator: Headteacher

Status: Non Statutory

Review Period: Three Years

Date: September 2018

Next review date: September 2021

AIMS:

- To enthuse pupils to learn and enjoy 'homework' activities.
- To provide appropriate opportunities for pupils to develop, practice and apply their learning beyond the school environment.
- To provide helpful activities for parents or carers to support their children's learning and therefore develop the partnership between home and school.

The school aims to provide a challenging curriculum for the children in school and recognises that many of the pupils are also involved in extra-curricular activities after school and at weekends. Therefore, the benefits of learning at home must be balanced with the need for relaxation and leisure time for young children. For young children, play is just as important as more formal learning activities. Parents can help their child's learning by joining in with games and sports, helping with creative activities such as painting and cookery, and most importantly just having time to talk together.

The school follows the DfE guidance for time allocation for homework, which is about 1 hour each week, spread over the week. Within this framework, the school asks parents to support a key area of home learning that has a beneficial impact upon the children's learning progress.

READING

For all children the daily homework activity is reading, using the school's books from the book banded reading system, which provide the 'practise reading material'. This is the most important activity for parents to support at home. Children should read to their parents for at least 10 minutes each night. The time for reading should be increased as the children progress through the school becoming more independent and reading longer books.

Once a child is reading independently and fluently, they may prefer to read to themselves. However, parents can still support the reading process by talking to the child about the book they have read, asking them to re-tell the story or discuss characters etc. Parents are also encouraged to continue to read to their children even when they become independent. It is always a good idea to enrol your child at the local library.

MATHEMATICS

The pupils have Maths Learning Journals in Year 1 and Year 2. The journals are provided to enable children and their parents to keep a record, in a way that suits them, of maths learning at home. At the end of every week activities to support a different area of mathematics are put into the journals. Parents are encouraged to help children with these weekly challenges to support mathematical learning. Children are then invited to bring their journal to school at the end of each half term so that their home learning can be shared and celebrated at school. In addition, children have a maths ladder with mental maths targets. Copies of these ladders are sent home each time a target is met and a new challenge set, in the hope that these mental skills will be practised at home as well as at school.

WRITING

Writing needs to have an audience and a purpose in order to be a meaningful activity. Therefore, we do not set writing homework. However, we suggest that parents support children to practise their skills by writing shopping lists, letters, greetings cards or maybe even keep a diary or write up any research they have done linked to their topic learning at school. Pupils in Key Stage 1 follow a system to learn spellings in school.

ADDITIONAL HOME LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Pupils' learning progress is monitored very carefully in school. If teachers identify areas where a child is having difficulties, they will intervene with additional support in school. If it is appropriate, the teachers may ask parents to support these intervention strategies at home. The activities will be discussed with parents and the necessary resources will be provided.