



Homework

Shirland Primary School

November 2023

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Introduction

Homework is anything children do outside the normal school day that contributes to their learning, in response to guidance from the school.

Homework encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents/carers to support the children's learning. For example, parents or carers who spend time reading stories to their children before bedtime are helping with homework.

Rationale for homework

Homework is an important part of a child's education and can add much to a child's development.

We see homework as an important example of co-operation between teachers and parents/carers. One of the aims of our teaching is for children to develop as independent learners and we believe that completing homework is one of the main ways in which children can acquire the skill of independent learning and that it impacts greatly on a child's level of attainment.

While homework is important, it should not prevent children from taking part in the activities of various out-of-school clubs and of other organisations that play an important part in their lives. We acknowledge the importance of such play and free time in a child's growth and development. We also believe that children develop their interests and skills to the full, only when parents/carers encourage them to make maximum use of the opportunities available outside school.

Homework is seen in part as a preparation for the more independent learning undertaken at secondary school.

Aims and objectives

The aims and objectives of homework are:

- to enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development;
- to help pupils develop the skills of an independent learner;
- to promote co-operation between home and school in supporting each child's learning;
- to enable some aspects of the curriculum to be further explored independently;
- to provide educational experiences not possible in school;
- to consolidate and reinforce the learning done in school and to allow children to practice skills taught in lessons;

- to help children develop good work habits for the future.

Types of homework

Staff and pupils regard homework as an integral part of the curriculum – it is planned and prepared alongside all other programmes of learning.

All year groups will be sent home with a knowledge organiser secured in homework books (EYFS knowledge organiser is sent home separately). Knowledge organisers are A4 posters that cover key knowledge that children *must remember and recall*. These organisers are referred to in class and are part of classroom displays to embed knowledge.

The last piece of homework for each half term (KS1) or termly (KS2) will be an activity based upon the knowledge organiser.

In Reception (EYFS) children will have reading books to take home. We ask that parents listen to their children read at least four times a week. We also strongly recommend that parents read stories to their children too. Sharing books is just as valuable in aiding a child's progress in reading as is your child reading to you or to their teachers. They also have a 'snapple tree' chart that supports them with learning their letter recognition and sounds and a set of 'red' words to learn.

In Key Stage 1 we ask parents to continue to read daily for about fifteen minutes, but a minimum of four times a week (remember this can include sharing books with siblings and you reading to your child.) Children will also continue to have 'red' words until they have completed the sets.

In addition to the above;

Year 1 children will be given weekly phonics related spellings and a maths or English activity

Year 2 children will be set a weekly maths and English or Science based task. Children will also have times tables to learn.

Practical activities such as weighing cooking ingredients, handling real money and familiarising children with measures are of great value and we recommend you support your child with these life skills at every opportunity.

In Key Stage 2 we continue to give children the similar structure to homework activities outlined for Key Stage 1, particularly reading. Children will have spellings, one piece of Maths and one piece of English home-work, with additional multiplication practise via TT Rockstars. Periodically, there may be an additional reading comprehension.

In Year 6, from January to May, we set homework from the CGP revision books as a means of helping the children to prepare for the end of key stage examinations (SATS). The revision guides will cover maths, reading and grammar. This also helps to ensure that prior learning has been understood. Children will continue to practise multiplication via TT Rockstars.

Homework is always acknowledged and is marked or used in class to support learning. There may be issues arising from the work, which the teacher will follow up in lesson time.

Homework is given out on a Friday and should be returned to the class teacher by the following Wednesday.

Amount of homework

As children move through the school, the amount of homework that we give to the children gradually increases. We suggest no more than 20 minutes per activity. This may differ for our Year 6 children, when preparing for SATS and this will be guided by the class teacher.

If children wish to do more than what is set for any year group, please talk to the class teacher who will be able to make recommendations.

Inclusion and homework

We set homework for all children as a normal part of school life. We ensure that all tasks set are appropriate to the ability of the child, and we endeavour to adapt any task set so that all children can contribute in a positive way. When setting homework to pupils who are named on the register of special needs, we may refer to those pupils' Individual Education Plans (IEPs). We value and celebrate the cultural diversity of our pupils and their families, and we appreciate the enrichment that this brings.

The role of parents and carers

Parents and carers have a vital role to play in their child's education and homework is an important part of this process. We ask parents and carers to encourage their child to complete the homework tasks that are set. We invite them to help their children as and when they feel it to be necessary, and to provide them with the sort of environment that allows children to do their best.

Parents and carers 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. Ideally parents should read with their children every day to help them develop a love of books and stories and help them to grow in confidence.

We ask parents and carers to sign their child's Reading Record to show that they have heard their child read and discussed their books with them on at least four occasions during each week.

We also offer a lunchtime homework club to support children who are unable to complete homework at home or who generally just need some extra support.

Parents are encouraged to speak to the class teacher if they need any support or have questions about their child's homework.

Use of ICT

A copy of the school's Online Safety policy is available from the school office and may also be found on the school website. The child's safety is paramount in all matters regarding use of the internet and we advise parents and carers to always supervise their child's access to the internet. The use of ICT and the internet has made a significant contribution to the amount of reference material available at home, and the ease and speed with which it can be accessed. However, our teachers expect their pupils to produce their own work, perhaps by editing something they have found, or by expressing it in their own words.

There are many websites containing highly educational material which can have a powerful effect on children's learning. We discourage children from bringing memory sticks into school because of the risk of viruses.

Monitoring and review

It is the responsibility of our governing body to agree and then monitor the school homework policy.

Appendix A - Homework Overview Homework Expectations (weekly)

EYFS – Reading books, red words, snapple tree

Y1 – Reading books, phonics related spellings, red words, a piece of maths or English and 'one minute maths' multiplications

Y2 – Reading books, phonics related spellings, red words, a piece of maths, a piece of English/topic, and 'one-minute maths' multiplications

Y3 – Reading books, spellings, a piece of maths, a piece of English, and TT Rockstars (multiplication)

Y4 – Reading books, spellings, a piece of maths, a piece of English, and TT Rockstars (multiplication)

Y5 – Reading books, spellings, a piece of maths, a piece of English, and TT Rockstars (multiplication)

Y6 – Sept to Jan

Reading books, spellings, a piece of maths, a piece of English, TT Rockstars (multiplication)

Y6 – Jan to May SATS Revision

Reading, CGP revision guides where work is set by the class teacher, TT Rockstars