

The Purpose of Homework is to:

- encourage pupils to develop the skills, confidence and motivation to study effectively outside school
- consolidate and reinforce the skills and understanding developed at school
- extend school learning, for example through additional English and Maths support (reading, writing, x tables, spellings etc)
- develop and sustaining the involvement of parents in the management of pupils' learning, and keeping them informed about the work pupils are doing
- exploit resources for learning, of all kinds, at home

The Nature of Our Homework:

Homework should consist of a combination of:

- Creative activities which allow for children to express themselves across a range of learning styles
- Timely tasks – linked to current and future learning which enables children to make necessary steps in their progress

Creative Homework

Our creative homework scheme is designed to engage the children and will also allow for more parental involvement. The scheme is based on a selection of possible projects that the children can choose to do. The projects vary in the amount of work involved and are linked to a point system: 5points, 10points and 15points depending on the amount of work required. The children have to undertake projects over each term that total to at least 30 points. They present their work to their class teacher upon completion of each project. Each class has a selection of homework projects that allow the children an element of choice and are related to the subjects/topics they are covering in class. The completed work is then either added to the work they do in class or put on display. At the beginning of each term children take home a homework project sheet with the full range of activities they can do. This can then be discussed with the parents/guardians prior to starting any given activity.

The Quantity of Homework

The class teacher will be responsible for ensuring the demands of Homework are manageable and that children and parents know what is required and when through termly newsletters and homework menus which are available on the school website and shared with parents. The regular pattern of systematic homework such as reading, spellings and x tables is generally set at the beginning of the year where children are given log ins and tasks to complete on Times Table Rockstars and Spelling Shed.

A basic outlined guide is set out below:

*	Reception	Reading Phonics support ½ hour per week for other activities
*	Years 1 and 2	Reading X tables Phonics support/Spellings 1 hour per week for other activities
*	Years 3 and 4	Reading X tables Spellings 1 ½ hours per week for other activities
*	Years 5 and 6	Reading X tables Spellings 2 hours per week for other activities

Role of Parents

Parents are encouraged to:

- provide a reasonably peaceful, suitable place for doing homework
- make it clear to children that they value homework, and become involved in actively sporting and helping in the completion of homework
- expect deadlines to be met and check that they are
- give praise (especially to young children) for the completion of homework

Monitoring, Evaluating and Feedback

Where appropriate, homework tasks will be given effective marking and feedback. Homework projects will be shared with the class and through "Show and Tell" assemblies and rewards given for endeavour and commitment to the finished quality of the homework project and the effort given to each task. Teaching staff will take careful note of the quality of the children's work and its effectiveness in contributing to each child's progress. Judgements will be heavily weighted in terms of creative thinking and creativity in general. The Head teacher will oversee the whole process but individual class teachers will have the responsibility to set and monitor the assignments undertaken by the children.

As a reward for reading at home three times each week, children win a movie afternoon at the end of term.

Class teachers choose the Times Table Rockstar and Spelling Shed winners from each class to choose a reward from the class reward menu.

Children with Special Needs

Some children with Special Needs may benefit from separate tasks from the rest of the class. On the other hand, it is important that they should do as much in common with other children as possible. Setting homework which balances these two objectives will need close co-operation between teachers, SEN co-ordinators and parents.

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Homework for SEN pupils will not be seen as a way of attempting to get them to catch up with the rest of the class.

Conclusion

A good, well organised homework programme helps children to develop skills and attitudes they will need for successful independent lifelong learning. Developing creative thinking and creativity in general through homework is one way to achieve this as well as developing an enjoyment of learning beyond the classroom.