



Homework Policy

DATE: Autumn 2024

Learning to live life in all its fullness

HOMWORK POLICY

Introduction

Homework encourages pupils to develop the skill, confidence and motivation to study effectively on their own. We feel it should be used to reinforce understanding and skills taught as part of the school curriculum and as part of a number of strategies to keep children engaged with their learning journey.

Our consultation with parents leads us to recognise that they represent wide-ranging views and expectations regarding homework. We aim to strike a balance in responding to these views, alongside those of the children and staff.

Aim

When it comes to homework our teachers here at Roundhay St John's are agreed that certain types of homework help best with children's progress and engagement. Homework that we set, therefore, comes from some clear and important aims:

- To help children consolidate and extend skills they have learnt and fill any gaps they might have in their knowledge.
- To prepare children well for future learning, independence and personal responsibility.
- To give parents an insight into their child's learning and to facilitate the partnership and shared understanding of children's development between home and school.
- To recognise that our children have many learning experiences outside of school and that homework should not place unreasonable demands on children's leisure time or family life.

Guidelines

We believe that the better parents understand what we are trying to achieve with homework, the better outcomes will be for children. Experience tells us that a focused approach has more impact on learning so we have identified **core homework** for each year group. Core home work is ongoing and consists of key skills that are fundamental to learning. The more that parents can support their children with this kind of learning, the better prepared children will be for class learning.

Children will also receive **other homework** which will vary from week to week. The grid below is intended to give a simple summary of the expectation in each phase.

Age Range	Core Homework	Other Homework
Reception	Reading Phonics Maths Facts	Occasionally, there may be an additional task to help consolidate particular age appropriate key skills.
Years 1 and 2	Reading Phonics Maths Facts	There may also be one additional task related to the core curriculum.
Years 3 and 4	Reading Spelling Times Tables and reasoning around key facts	One additional curriculum task. This might sometimes be an extended piece of work or topic which children have longer to complete
Years 5 and 6	Reading Spelling Times Tables and reasoning around key facts	One additional curriculum related task. This might sometimes be an extended piece of work or topic which children have longer to complete

- All children, from Reception to Year 6, are expected to read regularly at home. This should include reading by themselves and to others. School reading books are, on their own, limiting so we encourage parent to make a wide range of reading materials available to their children. We encourage visits to the library to support this.
- Phonics and Spelling skills are fundamental to independent reading and writing. These are skills that require reinforcement and overlearning which is why we prioritise these aspects for homework throughout school. This will usually consist of sets of age appropriate words to learn often with an accompanying task.
- Maths homework will consist of reinforcement activities based on the key aspects covered in class with a particular focus on multiplication and essential number facts. As parents, we feel that supporting your children in these aspects of mental agility and recall is the best way to support your child and their teacher to build on classroom learning.
- Generally speaking, homework will involve practising a skill or extending learning already started in class rather than introducing new learning. They may however be asked to undertake research to prepare for the start of a new learning journey.
- Children in Years 1 – 6 will be provided with a homework book to record their homework. It is intended that this will also be used as a means of communication between home and school. Parents will be able to see follow up comments and be able to make comments themselves for the benefit of the child or teacher.
- It is expected that the work that children undertake in their homework books should be of an equal standard to that which they produce in class. Nothing is achieved otherwise.
- We encourage parents to understand that not every piece of work produced by the children can be marked in detail by the classteacher. Homework will always be acknowledged by the teacher. This may take the form of a sticker, stamp, smiley face or comment.

Conclusion

We aim to support all our children in continuing to learn at home. Within the context of busy family lives, we appreciate that, occasionally, children will not always have time to complete what has been set and on this we rely on the judgement of parents. However, there is an expectation that homework will be done as we regard engagement with such activities as being part of the whole attitude to learning and the school's high expectations of each child.

The effectiveness of our approach to homework will be monitored by the head teacher who will actively seek and welcome comments from parents.

As a school we believe that by working together we will better equip our children for lifelong learning and we value the input parents and children make to inform our approach to homework.

Date: Autumn 2024

Enc. Homework Agreement to share with parents

Our Homework Agreement

Teachers will:

- Provide regular homework for children from Reception to Year 6.
- Give you the opportunity to complete it at weekends **OR** on weeknights.
- Provide **core homework** focusing on essential age related basic skills and **other homework** intended to extend the variety of home learning.
- Sometimes give bigger pieces of homework and expect you produce something special over 2 or 3 weeks.
- Make every effort to tell your parents what you are expected to do and how to support you.
- Give you some feedback about your homework.
- Tell parents when homework is not returned to school.

Children will:

- Decide when they will do their homework as soon as they get it and ask their parents whether this fits in with family plans.
- Complete homework with care and pride; just as they would in school.
- Make every effort to complete homework on time and to the best of their ability.
- Try to be as independent as they can, but ask family or friends for help if needed.

Parents could:

- Help children to plan ahead and arrange a good time to do their homework so that it doesn't spoil other family time.
- Help children to find a place to work that suits them and is free from younger brothers or sisters or any other distraction.
- Encourage children to complete homework with care and pride; just as they would in school.
- Encourage children to complete their learning on time and to the best of their ability.
- Encourage the **child's own thoughts and ideas**.
- Inform the class teacher (via the homework book or verbally) when it has not been possible to complete homework during a particularly busy week or when children have struggled to understand.