



Rationale

The Department for Education requires all schools to have a written homework policy that gives guidance to both teachers and parents about what is expected of them on a weekly basis. Homework is defined as 'any work or activities which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents'. At King's Gate Primary School we recognise that a strong home-school partnership provides a firm foundation for children's learning. Homework is intended to complement the work done in school and may, at times, involve completing work started in school.

Aims

To give parents the opportunity to share in their children's learning by communicating what is being covered in school, e.g. topics, targets.
To encourage parents to reinforce skills, ideas and concepts introduced in school; particularly in English and Maths.
To further develop work undertaken in school through enquiry and investigation.
To widen children's experience beyond the classroom.
To encourage children to take increasing responsibility for their own learning.
To develop in our children the skills and attitudes they will need for successful, independent lifelong learning – supporting them prior to transferring to secondary school.

Initiatives

We have many different initiatives in school that support home-school learning. The more practice that the children gain at home reinforces their learning in school and helps them to become more successful learners.

Spellings

The pupils have individualised spellings to learn at home and at school. In KS1, new spellings are given to the children on a Friday and tested on a Thursday. In KS2, new spellings are given to the children on a Monday and then tested at the end of the week. The spellings come from mis-spelt words in their own work, common key words, words and spelling patterns specified in the National Curriculum for their year group. The words that the pupils are learning that week are in their Home-Link Book (KS2) or Home-Learning Book (KS1) so that you can encourage them to learn the words at home too. On our website is a copy of the techniques that the pupils use in school to help them learn their spellings.

Fantastic Four Reading

We expect children to read at home at least 4 times during the week. Parents need to sign and comment in their child's home-link book/reading record each time that their child reads at home. The record books will be checked weekly and a sticker awarded on the class reading chart for 4 or more home reads in a week. There are then awards presented in achievement assembly for 12, 24 and 36 week reads in a year.

Guidelines

Reception (Government Guidance - 1 hour per week to be spent on homework activities)

Reading

Children are encouraged to bring their reading books home and share them with parents. They will also bring home words to learn. Please write in the reading record when you read with your child (see Fantastic Four).

Writing

Parents are asked to help children practise writing their name (first name before surname). Please do not let children use capital letters except for the first letter of each name. It is important that children learn to form letters correctly. Your child will have a sheet in their Home Learning Journal showing you how the letters are formed.

Maths

Parents are encouraged to practise mental maths skills in everyday situations with their child e.g. shopping, counting, weighing etc.

Home Learning Journal

During the summer term, children will be bringing a book home to continue their learning outside of school. As in school, most learning should be child-initiated and self-chosen. We ask that you encourage your child to write in their book and maybe draw a picture to tell us about things that they have done at home or places that they have visited. The children can include a photo or a leaflet to add to their writing. Your child can do as much or as little as they like but we ask that you do not let them waste pages in their books.

Year 1 and 2(Government Guidance - 1 hour per week to be spent on homework activities)

Reading

Children will bring their reading books home to share with parents. Some children will also bring home words to learn. Please write in the reading record when you read with your child (see Fantastic Four).

Home Learning Journal

Children will be bringing a book home to continue their learning outside of school. The children are able to do any learning in their book that they would like, for example, if they have visited a place or have achieved something out of school, they could put a photo or leaflet in their journal and write about it. They might like to continue some of the learning they have been doing in Maths.

Each term there is a homework grid informing you of the homework tasks for the term- they will cover a range of English, Maths, Science and Topic. Please ensure that your child does these tasks as a minimum.

Part way through Year 1 and from the start of Year 2, your child will also be bringing spelling words home to learn. Your child must practise these as they will be tested on them in school. They must be able to spell the list of words for their year group by the end of the year. In Year 1 Maths, the children learn to count in 2s, 5s and 10s. In Year 2 Maths, the children learn the 2s, 5s and 10s times tables, and also the 3s.

Year 3 (Government Guidance - 1.5 hours per week to be spent on homework activities)

Reading

Reading will continue to be the main focus, with a target of 15 mins reading and discussing the book each day.

Writing

Children will continue to bring home words to learn for spellings, please encourage children to use these words and to understand their meaning.

Maths

Parents are encouraged to practise mental maths skills in everyday situations with their child e.g. shopping, counting, weighing, measuring, comparing sizes, doubling numbers, 2x, 5x, 10x, then 3x, 4x & 8x tables.

There will be at least 1 formal piece of homework every week. Each term there is a new homework grid and the children need to choose which subject they do from Maths, English and Topic. They must do a different subject each week.

Year 4 (Government Guidance - 1.5 hours per week to be spent on homework activities)

Reading

Reading will continue to be a focus, with a target of 15 mins reading and discussing the book each day.

Spelling

Children will continue to bring home words to learn for spellings, please encourage children to use these words and to understand their meaning.

Maths

Parents are encouraged to practise mental maths skills in everyday situations with their child e.g. shopping, counting, weighing, measuring, comparing sizes, doubling numbers, 2x, 5x, 10x then 3x, 4x & 8x next 6x, 7x & 9x and finally 11x & 12x. By the end of Year 4 the children are expected to know all of their times tables up to 12 x 12.

There will be at least 1 formal piece of homework every week. Each term there is a new homework grid and the children need to choose which subject they do from Maths, English and Topic. They must do a different subject each week.

Year 5 (Government Guidance - 30 mins per day to be spent on homework activities)

Reading

Reading will continue to be a focus, with a target of 20 mins reading and discussing the book each day.

Spelling

Children will continue to bring home words to learn for spellings, please encourage children to use these words and to understand their meaning.

Maths

Parents are encouraged to practise mental maths skills in everyday situations with their child e.g. shopping, counting, weighing, measuring, comparing sizes, doubling numbers, Division related facts for all tables linked to 12x12.

There will be 2 formal pieces of homework every week. Each term there is a new homework grid and the children must choose which two subjects they do each week. They must cover all subjects equally over the term.

Year 6 (Government Guidance - 30 mins per day to be spent on homework activities)

Reading

Reading will continue to be a focus, with a target of 20 mins reading and discussing the book each day.

Spelling

Children will continue to bring home words to learn for spellings, please encourage children to use these words and to understand their meaning.

Maths

Parents are encouraged to practise mental maths skills in everyday situations with their child e.g. shopping, counting, weighing, measuring, comparing sizes, doubling numbers. Division related facts for all tables linked to 12x12.

There will be 2 formal pieces of homework every week. Each term there is a new homework grid and the children must choose which two subjects they do each week. They must cover all subjects equally over the term.

Resources to Support Parents/Carers:

Website

On the website there is a home learning hub where there are direct links to useful web pages and support programmes to support with homework.

Purple Mash

The school has subscribed to Purple Mash, an e-learning resource available for the children to access on-line activities at home in a variety of subjects. Also, they have access to many of the Computing Programs that we use in school on here. Every child has their own unique password and username.

Letter Join

In Y1 upwards, we have a subscription to Letter Join which is a website for teaching and learning handwriting. As part of this, we have a home subscription which you are able to use to look at what and how your child is learning, and also for them to practise their handwriting. It is possible for your child to use Letter Join on an iPad.

<http://www.letterjoin.co.uk/login.html>

User: jk5846 Password: home

Spelling

On our website there are links on the class pages to spelling strategies that you can use with your children to help them practise at home in a multi-sensory fun way.

Home-link Books

The home-link books used in Year 3 – 6 are a communication tool for you and the teacher. Children are encouraged to record reading, spellings and homework in these.

Reading Record Books

These are the books provided for children in Reception, Y1 & Y2 to be used by parents and staff to record any reading undertaken at home and in school. These can also be used for communication. In school, we will write in pink when we record reading.

Remote Learning

As a school, we believe that learning should continue even on the rare occasions that the school has to close. Every child has access to Google Classroom and is expected to log on when school is closed. There will always be lessons and work set by the teachers and if closed for a longer period, there will be live meets/ sessions that the children should engage with. Each child has their own password and if these are lost, they can be reset by the school office.

When work is submitted on Google Classroom, teachers will respond to the learning. We do not expect work to be printed out at home.

For further information on remote learning, see our separate policy.

Conclusion

We believe that, if children are working well in school, then they should be free to enjoy quality time with their families and friends outside school. However, a certain amount of basic skills reinforcement is still required. In Y5 and Y6 you will see an expansion of homework to include a wider range of tasks and increasingly develop the skills of independent learning, ensuring that they are prepared and ready for secondary school.

We really value the contribution that parents make to their children's learning and recognise that any success with working at home will depend largely upon their active involvement.