

HOMEWORK POLICY

WHY IS HOMEWORK IMPORTANT?

Homework is valuable for the following reasons:

1. It can help pupils to make more rapid progress in learning.
2. It can allow pupils to develop the practice of working on their own, vital practise for secondary school.
3. Work at home can provide the quiet and private conditions needed for creative and thoughtful work of all kinds.
4. It can allow valuable practice of skills learned in the classroom.
5. It can allow pupils to use materials and other sources of information that are not always available in the classroom.
6. It can involve parents and others in the pupils' work for their mutual benefit.
7. It can give opportunities for long-term research and other work.
8. This gives pupils valuable experience of working to dead lines.
9. It forms a link with the methods of study crucial to success at Secondary School.

THE NATURE OF THE HOMEWORK.

We have a system whereby the class teacher sets an allocated amount of homework per week. The nature of the homework will vary between year groups, different classes, children's abilities and topics of study. Homework is not set for school holidays or during parent's evening weeks. Marking homework forms an integral part of our assessment. We aim to return marked homework promptly, whilst the exercise is fresh in the pupil's mind.

Foundation: Daily sharing of a book
Termly home learning challenge based on the topic

Year 1: Daily reading
Weekly – spellings (a mixture of key words and phonic related spellings, the number of spellings will vary depending on the phonic phase they are on)
One topic based activity to complete each term.
Weekly use of the On-line Mathswizz Programme from after Christmas – children will be given a Username and Password

Year 2: Daily reading
Weekly – spellings (a mixture of key words and phonic related spellings, the number of spellings will vary depending on the phonic phase they are on)
Two topic based activities each term, with children independently choosing how to present the activities.
Weekly use of the On-line Mathswizz Programme – children will be given a Username and Password.

Years 3,4,5 & 6: Two topic based activities each term, with children independently choosing how to present the activities.
Weekly use of the On-line Mathswizz Programme – children will be given a Username and Password.
Reading
Weekly – spellings (a mixture of key words and spelling patterns, the number of spellings will vary)
Year 6 children will also bring home some practise SATs Questions / Papers.

Reading.

Reading books are taken home as a matter of course. The younger children will bring home a colour banded book, as well as a free choice book. If the free choice book is too easy to read that is fine, if it is a little challenging maybe you could read it to them. Pupils need to share a book at home daily, even if they are confident readers, and/or practise key words or sounds with their family. Parents or the children themselves, dependent on age, are encouraged to write a comment in their own school reading diary which clearly informs the teacher of the pupil's achievements. Reading certificates are given once a double page spread of the reading diary is completed.

Spellings.

The children will be sent home with a set of spellings to practise at home and within class, as a morning activity. The children will be tested on these spellings and their results will be given out for them to take home / stick in their homework book. Spelling certificates are presented if all correct for three weeks in a row.

Topic Based Activity

Two topic based activities will be sent home at the beginning of each term. Children can choose how to present these activities eg. artwork, powerpoint presentation, model, poem... The class teachers will set a date that each activity needs to be returned to class, so that the children can present / discuss their work for a maximum of five minutes. The children need to manage the activities so that they meet the deadlines set by the class teacher.

On-line Mathswizz

All children will carry out an assessment at school, which will then assess the children's mathematical ability and set appropriately pitched lessons for children to complete at home. Children will have their own User Name and Password. They will watch a short lesson, undertake some questions and finally complete a short test. Teachers will check the time spent using the programme and the progress each child is making. Certificates are presented to the children who use the programme the most and progress the most.

HOW DOES THE SCHOOL HELP PUPILS ORGANISE THEIR HOMEWORK?

- a) Each pupil is given a reading diary at the beginning of the year. With the exception of Foundation, every child will also have a homework book. We send homework books home on a Thursday and collect in the following Tuesday. Mathswizz can be

completed any day but teachers will look at progress every Tuesday. We operate a 'drop in' homework centre on a Monday to offer help and facilities to complete the homework, if required.

- b) We try to make sure that our instructions concerning homework are clear to everyone in the class, and homework sheets include relevant advice and examples.
- c) We aim to mark or respond to homework promptly in a way that is helpful to pupils.

HOW CAN PARENTS OR GUARDIANS HELP WITH HOMEWORK?

- a) Help your child organise his or her time to best advantage so that things are not all left to the last minute or even forgotten.
- b) Try to make sure that there are suitable working conditions at home.
- c) Take a positive and active interest in your child's work at home rather than just insisting that it is done.
- d) Let us know if there are problems with homework that you cannot resolve. Perhaps your child seems to be doing too much, or not enough, or you have difficulty accessing the internet. Contact the class teacher in the first instance who will be glad to help.

The staff will keep a record of pupils who have handed in their homework. This will be used to provide evidence for rewarding pupils and end of year reports. Homework missed due to absence on the set date does not normally have to be completed.

Compiled by: Amanda Willis	Reviewed : Nov. 2017
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