



RED OAKS PRIMARY SCHOOL

HOMEWORK POLICY



Review Date February 2021

Next Review Due February 2022

It is important that children link learning opportunities with both school and home so that a sense of partnership is developed from an early age.

As a school we are seeking to promote skills that build children's confidence and motivation so that they eventually become independent learners. It is extremely important that skills and understanding developed at school are continually reinforced and consolidated at home, particularly in the areas of literacy and numeracy. All possible learning resources at school and at home must be exploited to provide children with a wealth of stimulating opportunities.

Work to be done at home, "Homework" is therefore very important to complete the learning cycle and it is essential that everyone understands what this may include to avoid confusion. This can often be a shared task for parent and child to work on together or is an individual task which children complete independently with parental support.

At Red Oaks Primary School, homework is regarded as an integral part of the children's education. We recognise that homework has a variety of different purposes and benefits:

- Ensures progression towards independence and individual responsibility
- Consolidates and reinforces skills and understanding
- Allows for activities to extend objectives taught in lessons at school
- To broaden learning, enabling the children to share in learning experiences beyond the classroom
- Provides opportunities for parents, children and school to work in partnership
- Provides opportunities for parents and children to work together to enjoy learning opportunities
- Enable parents to be involved in the learning process and to have a better understanding of the work taking place at School

Regular Tasks

Reading, spelling/phonic awareness, handwriting and times table tasks will be sent home each week and ideally practiced daily.

Occasionally, teachers may send home additional tasks related to what is being taught in class. This may be to reinforce a particular concept. In general, homework will not be set during the holidays but there may be times when teachers feel this is appropriate to meet and support the needs of individuals.

Children will bring their home school contact book and reading books home every day and are expected to read as often as possible (minimum four times a week). Infant children may bring home a wallet of high frequency words and/or phonics to read. All children from Year 1 will bring home weekly spellings. Children in reception will be given spellings at an appropriate time in the school year, according to individual need.

Reception

Children in the reception classes may have key words and phonics sent home. They will also have a reading/picture book which they will be encouraged to share with a parent on a daily basis.

Nursery

In nursery, we encourage a rich variety of language.

Termly Creative Tasks

We acknowledge that children have different strengths and interests as well as different ways of learning. There will be 5 creative/extended tasks set each term of which children from years 1-6 will be expected to choose at least 2. For children who would like to do more homework, they could do all 5! These are open ended tasks which may be presented and interpreted how the child chooses. This may include:

- Computerised work or presentations
- Art work
- Poetry
- Creative Writing
- Models
- Photographs

Depending on the age/year group, some prompts will be given initially to guide children's thinking, but there is an emphasis as they move up the school on developing the children's ability to become more independent learners.

Homework will not be given during school holidays with the exception of Year 6 SATs revision. However, there are plenty of homework links and ideas on the website for those who wish to engage.

Class homework will be posted on the website and paper copies are also sent home.

Responsibilities

For homework to be at its most effective, it is important that the child, the parent and the teacher are clear about their roles and responsibilities in the homework process. At Red Oaks Primary School we encourage the following:

The children are responsible for:

- Returning homework at the appropriate time
- Completing all activities to the best of their ability - keeping to the standard expected at school

The teacher is responsible for:

- Setting tasks which match the ability of the child
- Explaining tasks clearly - giving the children the opportunity to ask any questions
- Providing feedback weekly in the pupils' home school contact book
- Testing spellings and timetables and keeping scores
- Feeding back at parent consultation meeting

Parent's partnership role in the homework process is extremely important and we would like to encourage you to:

- Provide a reasonably peaceful and suitable place for doing homework
- Make it clear to your child that their homework is valued
- Support the school by making it clear that homework will help your child to progress
- Give lots of praise and encouragement
- Have appropriate expectations in line with the individual child
- Providing feedback in the child's home school contact book.
- Seek help and advice from the class teacher if any problems arise

Enquiry Learning

Children may be asked to investigate a specific aspect of our enquiry ready for a particular lesson at school. This may include bringing in artefacts, research using the Internet or the library, exploring the local or immediate environment etc.

Finishing School Work and Completing Homework

It is not the school's policy for children to bring home unfinished work in books. Time will be found in school to complete tasks.

As homework is not a legal requirement, the school cannot insist that children complete this and will not keep children in at break times. The school will endeavour to provide an open homework club during lunchtime one day a week where a member of staff will be available to support children. However, staff will not be responsible for 'chasing' children to attend. Children who complete homework will be celebrated.

Marking/Feedback

It is not the school policy to provide lots of homework that needs to be marked by the teacher. The teacher-marking load is enormous and needs to be completed daily to ensure the smooth management of classroom learning. However, spelling and timetables will be tested weekly and records of these scores kept. Extended tasks will be marked at the end of each term and exemplary pieces placed on display or sometimes published on the school website.

Inclusion for All (Special Educational Needs)

Specific homework tasks or activities will be differentiated in order to meet the individual needs of the children. Those children identified as SEN may need to have the task further differentiated and linked to their IEP targets. Spellings that are sent home are set by ability and all children receive spellings to learn. Individual pupil achievements and efforts are celebrated.

Homework is differentiated mainly by outcome. Children show their understanding, at their own level, choosing a variety of ways to do this. This makes homework accessible to all pupils.

Monitoring and Evaluating the Effectiveness of the Homework Policy

As a school we all recognise that policies must be regularly reviewed and updated. It is important that our Homework Policy is effective and is supporting our policy of raising standards.

Parents, children and staff have been consulted in the writing of this policy.