



Nettlesworth Primary School
Homework Policy
Jan 2020

What are the aims of this policy?

- To ensure a consistent approach to homework throughout the school.
- To ensure that teachers, parents and children have a clear understanding regarding expectations for homework.
- To ensure that teachers, parents and children are fully aware of the role they play with regard to homework.

What is the purpose of homework?

- To consolidate, reinforce and extend skills and understanding, particularly in Literacy and Numeracy.
- To provide opportunities for parents and children to work together.
- To allow parents to gain an understanding of what children are learning in school.
- To allow children to progress towards becoming more independent learners.

What is the role of the school?

- To provide parents with a clear policy regarding homework.
- To ensure this policy is fully and consistently followed.
- To provide support for parents with information about homework.
- To provide support for children with the running of a homework club.

What is the role of the teacher?

- To plan and set a programme of homework that is appropriate to the needs of the child.
- To ensure all children understand the homework they have been given.
- To mark and give feedback about homework.

- To be available to talk to parents and children about homework.
- To inform parents if there is a problem regarding homework.

What is the role of the parent / carer ?

- To support the child in completing homework.
- To ensure the child completes homework to a high standard and hands it in on time.
- To provide the appropriate conditions for the child to complete the homework.
- To provide the appropriate resources for the child to complete the homework.

What is the role of the child?

- To ensure they have everything they need to complete homework each week.
- To make sure they understand the tasks that have been set.
- To put in the same level of effort as would be expected of class work.
- To hand the homework in on time.
- To take on board any feedback about homework.

Homework in Reception

Learning together is the emphasis for children in Reception. The activities are Literacy, Numeracy and Science based with a strong emphasis on reading together. It is an ideal time to lay the foundations for continuing work at home.

What type of work will my child get?

Reading

Parents will be informed of the theme that the children are learning in school each half term. Starting in the Autumn term and continuing all year, the main emphasis is on reading at home.

This should be done in two ways:-

- Adults reading to children. Parents are encouraged read books to children, so they can get used to print and stories. Parents should encourage children to point to words as they are being read. Discussion about the books is also important.
- Children reading to an adult. When they are ready to, children will start bringing books home to read to an adult. Again, encouraging the child to point to the words as they are being read is important. Discussing the story and the characters and asking questions about the book will help with the child's

understanding of language.

Letter formation.

At the beginning of the child's first term in Reception, the class teacher will provide parents with a sheet to support children with letter formation. This shows where to start and finish when forming each letter and what each letter should look like. Giving children the opportunity to practise forming letters and also developing drawing skills with a variety of different tools will give them valuable practice. The important thing is to watch them and correct any mistakes sensitively, so they don't fall into bad habits.

Phonics

At Nettlesworth Primary School, we follow the Read Write Inc. programme to teach our children phonics, reading and to inspire our writing. Read Write Inc starts in Early Years Foundation Stage, beginning with distinguishing between environmental sounds and progressing to learning the Set 1 Speed Sounds through the year. The Read Write Inc. learning journey then continues into Key Stage 1, as well as Key stage 2 for children who need additional support. Our children access their phonics in small groups daily, where they are encouraged to sound out the phonics they are working on and identify the sound in a variety of words. Please look out for your child's new sounds each week and offer encouragement to find objects that contain these sounds.

Tricky Words.

Children learn to read tricky words. After the children have learned the tricky words in each phase parents will be sent a list of the words the children have learned. Regularly practising reading them, looking out for the words in reading books and playing games with them, will really benefit the child. For some children, it will be useful to practise writing the words as well as reading them. The teachers may send home games to give parents some ideas. It would be useful if these words were practiced on a regular basis in the summer holiday before year 1, as well as parents continuing to share books with their child.

How much time should be spent on homework?

Reception

Approx 15 minutes per day (depending upon the child's level) on Literacy based activities including reading.

Homework in Key Stage 1

For children in Key Stage One, we encourage parents to work together with their child to support them with their homework. The emphasis remains on Literacy, Numeracy, Science and reading.

What type of work will my child get?

Reading

Reading on a regular basis is vital when children are in year one and two. Children will bring their reading books home every evening, and the role of the adult is to listen and support them. It is important to remind them to use different strategies to read new words i.e, using their phonics knowledge to sound words out, looking at the pictures and looking for words within words, are ways in which the child can read an unknown word. Just as important is discussing the book to check that the child has understood what they have read. Children will have a reading record which parents/carers should sign or comment in each time they read with the child.

High Frequency Words

Children will have daily phonics lessons throughout Key Stage 1, which will also include ways that children can build up a secure sight vocabulary. It is vital that children build up a bank of words which they can read and spell on sight. Children will bring home some words each week for them to read, write and learn. Parents can help children to learn these, by practising them regularly and often. Children will often receive the same words again in order to practise them further. Children should have the opportunity to practice their words over the summer holidays.

Numeracy

Children will be given homework to develop important numeracy skills. Parents can support their child by giving them lots of opportunities to practise these skills.

By the end of year 2 :-

- Children should be confident in their 2, 5 and 10 times tables. They should be able to say them in order and mixed up.
- Children should be able to double each number up to 20.
- Children should be able to halve each even number up to 20.

- Children should know their number bonds of all numbers up to 20. This means they should know how to make each number, for example 5 can be made by 0+5, 1+4, 2+3, 3+2, 4+1, 5+0
- Children should be able to tell the time when it is o'clock, half past, quarter to and quarter past on digital and analogue clocks.
- Children should be confident when using money. They should know the names of the coins and they should have experience of adding, taking away and finding change.

Teachers will sometimes send home key number facts and shape names to learn.

How much time should be spent on homework?

Year 1/2

10-15 minutes reading daily

Support to complete their homework, depending on the child's age and ability

5 minutes spelling

Homework in Key Stage 2

As children get older, homework provides an opportunity for them to develop the skill of independent learning. It is important that parents support their children, but good habits of independent study should be encouraged. The main focus for homework in Key Stage 2 continues to be Literacy, Numeracy and Science, however children will be given more varied tasks in other areas of the curriculum.

What type of work will my child get?

Reading

Children may read to an adult, with an adult or read to themselves, in the presence of an adult. The story and characters should be talked about and new words discussed. Older children need a clear understanding of the text, that sometimes will go beyond the literal meaning. Children will read texts that are more detailed and will take longer to read. They should be encouraged to read all types of texts including non-fiction. Parents should continue to complete their child's reading record to show that they have read to an adult or had a discussion about the book.

Literacy

This will be based around what the children will be learning in class. The work could be based on spelling or punctuation. They may be asked to read something and answer questions. Sometimes the task will be a piece of writing.

Numeracy

This will also be based around what the children will be learning in class. The work could be linked to lessons on shape, measures or handling data. Lots of the activities will be based around number work. Children will be asked to make sure they know their tables from 2 to 10. They should be able to recite them and answer mixed questions.

Other Areas Work could be linked to any other curriculum area, Science, Geography, History and so on. It could take many forms, preparing a talk, completing a piece of research or conducting an interview. The nature of this work may be more open ended than in other areas.

Frequently asked questions

How much time should be spent on homework?

In reception and KS1, it is important that parents/carers work alongside their child giving them support and encouragement. Therefore the amount of time spent on homework, will depend the amount of support your child needs to complete the work.

For KS2 children, the minimum suggested times are below.

Year 3 and 4

15 minutes reading, 5x per week minimum 2 x 15 minute tasks in Literacy, Numeracy or another curriculum area minimum

Year 5 and 6

20 - 30 minutes reading 5 x per week minimum, 2 x 30 minutes tasks in Literacy, Numeracy or another curriculum area minimum

How can parents find out more information about homework?

Each year group will be provided with planners, and the class activity page on the school website will outline the topics being covered during the term.

Teachers will have different systems for handing in homework and they will tell

parents and children about this at the beginning of the year. If parents need advice on how to support their children with homework then they can speak to the child's class teacher.

Why will children sometimes be given extra homework?

Children who take part in specialised lessons such as Booster Classes may sometimes be set extra homework to reinforce the work being done. Additionally, children who work in a one to one situation with teaching assistants, will sometimes be given extra homework. In both cases, children should complete this work alongside their normal homework unless the child or the parents have been told otherwise.

What will happen if children don't complete their homework?

The expectation is that children will complete their homework. However if for any reason children are unable to complete their homework, parents/ carers should provide the class teacher with a note or contact the class teacher explaining why the homework has not been completed on the day the homework was due to be returned to school. Teachers will keep records of children completing homework and these records will be checked on a regular basis. A comment will also be made on children's termly report.

What if a child says they have received no homework?

If there is any reason why a child has not received homework, their teacher will inform parents. If parents have not received a letter, then they should check with the child's teacher.

How will the homework be marked?

Teachers will mark children's homework in a variety of ways. Generally the work will be acknowledged by the class teacher. Sometimes the work will be 'quality marked'. This is when a piece of work is marked in detail and comments about future progress are added to the work. On other occasions the work may be marked orally with the child or the class.