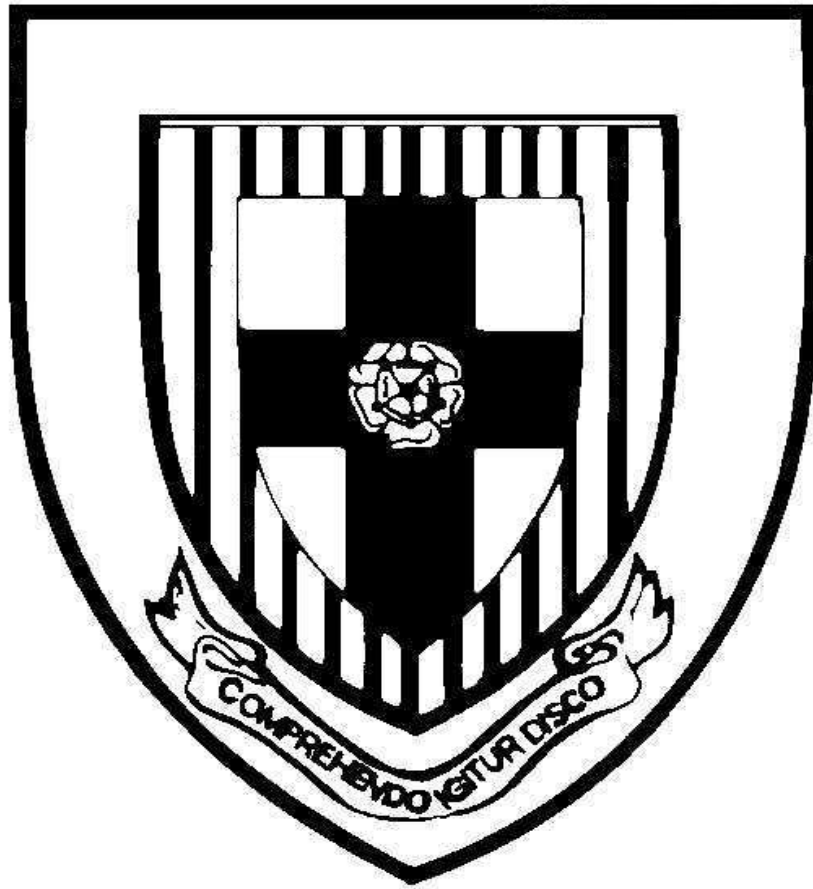




HOMEWORK POLICY

January 2023

Oak Cottage Primary School

Homework Policy

Homework could be called “learning out of school” as it is a natural progression from the daily work of the school and something that our pupils should see as relevant and interesting.

Learning at home begins as the child starts school, when he/she shares and extends the ideas developed in school with his/her parents at home. As the child’s learning experiences increase, the work encouraged in the home should be more challenging. The child should also take more responsibility for the completion of their tasks and learn how to organise and manage their time.

At Oak Cottage we value the partnership that exists between the home and the school. We believe that where this is strong and parents take an active role in their children’s learning, the benefits are great and the learning experiences of the child are likely to be enhanced.

The aims of our homework policy are: -

- ◆ To link home and school in an effective partnership
- ◆ To consolidate and reinforce classroom learning and reinforce fluency in some key areas
- ◆ To provide opportunities for pupils to further develop their research and reference skills through individual topic work.
- ◆ To develop enquiring and independent learners.

General Principles

We see the support of parents as essential to successful learning out of school. Parents can assist in many ways and, with support and encouragement from home, children find it easier to get into the habit of completing homework tasks with increasing independence.

All homework should be well integrated with a teacher’s everyday work and planning. Tasks should be carefully planned such that they are structured to support progression in learning and contribute to the challenge of raising attainment. Therefore, homework tasks should be appropriate to the needs of individuals.

Not all out of class work needs to be written work which has to be marked but may involve children in practical activities. Some homework tasks can be marked by the pupils themselves and discussed in the appropriate lesson. Homework that is completed well is acknowledged and praised.

All pupils should be encouraged to complete their allocated homework; staff should monitor and maintain a record of pupils’ homework and review the quality of completed tasks in consultation with pupils and parents, as necessary.

In the case of long-term sickness, each case will be treated individually and work sent / not sent as seen to be appropriate. If a child takes a holiday during term time it is the responsibility of the parent to provide educational activities for this period.

Homework should be age-appropriate and manageable.

Guidelines for Setting Homework

The main focus of homework for children at Oak Cottage is English and mathematics.

We do not specify amounts of time that should be spent on a task but do ask that children complete all activities to the best of their ability. Parents are encouraged to discuss any concerns over homework tasks with their child's teacher.

Our expectations are:

Nursery

Children bring in show and tell on a Friday and take home a library book to share on Thursday and return it on a Monday. Children may also be given a reading book as the year progresses. Children may take home a talk bag on a Friday.

Reception

Children are expected to read two reading books each week, complete the work in their letter formation books/ writing sentence books, to be returned on a Monday and learn the words on their 'bookmark'. A writing pack is given out on a Friday to be returned the following Friday.

Year 1 children are expected to read to an adult at least 3 times a week. Each week they are also expected to complete a phonics activity related to the sound the children are working on and a mathematics activity focusing on the previous week's topic. Children are also expected to complete one English activity linked to their current topic (selected from a grid sent home each half term). Children are also encouraged to learn to spell the list of words sent home at the beginning of the year. English is set on a Tuesday to be returned on a Monday. Maths is set on a Thursday and to be returned on a Monday.

Year 2 children are expected to read to an adult at least 3 times a week. Children are also expected to complete one English activity linked to their current topic (selected from a grid sent home each half term) and one mathematics activity each week (these will be sent home via a homework book). English is set on a Tuesday to be returned on a Monday. Maths is set on a Thursday and to be returned on a Monday.

Year 3 children are expected to read to an adult at least 3 times a week. They are also expected to complete an English activity linked to their current topic (selected from a grid sent home each half term), and a mathematics activity which is sent home each week.

Year 4 children are expected to read to an adult at least 3 times a week. They are also expected to complete an English activity linked to their current topic (selected from a grid sent home each half term), a grammar activity and a mathematics activity which is sent home each week.

Year 5 children are expected to read to an adult at least 4 times a week. They are also expected to complete an English activity linked to their current topic (selected from a grid sent home each half term), a grammar activity and a mathematics activity which is sent home each week.

Year 6 children are expected to read to an adult at least 4 times a week. They are also expected to complete an English activity linked to their current topic (selected from a grid sent home each half term), a grammar activity and a mathematics activity which is sent home each week.

We expect children to maintain the same standards of presentation in their homework as they do in their classwork.

Routines

Nursery: Books are sent home each Thursday, to be returned the following Monday. Talk bags go home on a Friday to be returned on a Monday.

Reception: Reading books are sent home each Monday and Friday. Bookmarks are checked each Tuesday and letter formation books/sentence book each Monday.

Children in Year 1 and Year 2 English is set on a Tuesday to be returned on a Monday. Maths is set on a Thursday and to be returned on a Monday. Each child will have a homework book for each subject and the majority of tasks will be kept in there. Children can change their books as often as they would like to.

Children in Year 3 – 6 will have a homework book and most homework activities can be completed in this book. An English activity (selected from the grid) and a grammar sheet (for Year 4 – 6) should be sent into school each Monday; mathematics homework is set each Wednesday and should be returned on the following Wednesday.

What Parents/ Carers Can Do

Homework is important – it makes a difference to learning. Knowing how to help is an essential aspect of the process. Parents should be encouraged to show an interest in their child's homework and understand that talking to their child about their homework can really make a difference to learning.

The time that parents give to their children, and the discussion involved is very important. Parents should talk to their child about the task and help them to understand what is required. This can be done through the child taking the role of the teacher and explaining what's expected. This is an important learning exercise for the pupil.

Hints for parents have been produced for each Key Stage and are distributed at the beginning of each year (see appendices).

Homework Help for Key Stage One

Children can find homework interesting and fun – or dull and annoying. However, doing homework is important – it makes a difference to learning. Knowing how to get involved in ways that work for you and your child can really help. We hope that the following “handy hints” are useful in enabling homework to be a positive experience for you both. All homework given at Oak Cottage relates to the learning covered in class that week so your child should be able to complete the tasks set. If you have any concerns, please let your child’s teacher know, either by commenting on the sheet, or making an appointment.

Time and Place

Agree a sensible, quiet place and time for homework. There is no right answer here just try to choose a time when you are both relaxed and not too tired. Some children may be better first thing in the morning, others straight after school. The most important thing is that your child can concentrate and you can be available to support them. Aim to make the experience a time you can enjoy together.

Reading Together

- Reading should take place at least three or four times a week.
- When you are listening to your child read the “reading book” from school, start by looking at the cover of the book and talk about the book first.
- As your child reads, encourage your child to find clues in the pictures to help them with new words, encourage them to try to guess what a new word might be by looking at the text, help them with any sounds they know and don’t be afraid to read the words for them if that helps with the flow.
- Ask them questions and talk about the book to help them understand what they have read. Can they tell you anything about the characters in the book? Or what they think might happen next?
- However, reading together can also involve telling stories, you reading to your child, reading print in the world around you, e.g. labels on tins and visits to the library. Try and include a variety of texts as even comics can spark off an interest in reading!

Other homework activities

- Read the questions or task with your child to help them to understand what they are being asked to do
- Your child should try to complete the work by themselves but if they need support please help them.
- Sign the bottom of the page and make a note of the time it took to complete the task
- Let your child’s teacher know how much help you gave by completing the cover sheet within their homework pack
- Sometimes the tasks won’t be on the homework sheets and won’t need any written response, for example, “on your way home look and see if you can spot any patterns on the door numbers of the houses (looking for odd and even numbers)”

Your support is vital; please help us to help your child, by extending their learning beyond the classroom. Thank you, KS One Team

Homework Help for Key Stage Two

Pupils

All homework set by your teacher will be an extension of your learning within the classroom. To help you complete the activity, can we suggest that you:-

-  Find a quiet area to work in
-  Choose a sensible time to work – don't ask adults for help when they are busy cooking the tea or watching their favourite programme on the TV!
-  Make sure that you have all of the necessary resources in front of you, eg reference books, pencil, sharpener, calculator
-  Read the instructions on your homework sheets and in your Homework Diary carefully
-  Talk about what is involved and what you need to do, with an adult – this will help you to understand the task
-  Only complete the page or activity that the teacher has asked you to do
-  Complete all of the work neatly and to the best of your ability. Always take pride in your work
-  Check your Maths answers by using a different strategy or method and check spellings and grammar in Literacy work
-  Pace yourself and monitor the time
-  Don't spend too long – if you are struggling, then ask your parents or teacher for some help
-  At the end of your homework please add a face to tell your teacher how you felt about the task, eg
 - ☺ Means that you found the homework O.K.
 - ☹ Means that you found some of the homework quite challenging
 - ☹ Means that you found the homework really difficult and might need some extra help

Parents

The homework set for your child will be the culmination of the areas of study for that week and should extend their learning and consolidate their understanding. We adhere to Government guidelines on the amount and type of homework. In order to help your child to complete the tasks set, we would suggest that you:-

- ◆ Agree a sensible, quiet place and time for homework to be completed
- ◆ Read the instruction / questions with your child, to ensure that they understand what is required of them
- ◆ Encourage your child to work independently, but be available to offer advice and support if your child asks for help
- ◆ Help your children to pace themselves (leaving it until the night before is not a good idea)
- ◆ Help your child to ensure that the homework is handed in on time
- ◆ Let your child's teacher know that you have checked that the homework has been completed and is accurate, by signing the work itself and, if you wish, make a note of how long it took to complete
- ◆ Let your child's teacher know how much support your child had needed in order to complete the task, by adding either:
 - I my child completed the work independently
 - S I supported by talking through the work

S+ I have needed to offer a great deal of support in order for my child to complete the task

Your support is vital; please help us to help your child by extending their learning beyond the classroom. Thank you, KS2 Team