

Homework Policy at Sherborne

Primary

Achieving, Belonging, Caring



Introduction

It is our view that children work incredibly hard at school and need time at home to assimilate the information they have learned during the day and enjoy other activities & hobbies

Generally, our homework tasks focus on the consolidation of the acquisition of key skills in English and Maths and a range of creative tasks, linked to topic learning.

What is the purpose of homework?

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

Our approach for each class is set out as follows (as a guide):

Reception (Foundation Stage - Ladybirds & Grasshoppers):

In the Foundation Stage we are developing positive relationships and an enabling environment for our unique children to have fun, learn through exploration and become creative critical thinkers.

- Follow this Link to info on [EYFS for Parents](#).
- Please ensure your child has a PE kit in school at all times.
- To keep updated with our current activities, events or timetable changes please ensure you check Classdojo.
- In the afternoon, the children will have the opportunity to cook, on occasion, a contribution of £15 for the year will be collected through school money.

At Sherborne Primary School we implore our parents to read with and to their children everyday. Being able to read opens the world of learning to us all. Therefore a love of stories, books and reading is of the highest importance to our children. It would really benefit your children if you regularly practise the phonic sounds and tricky words as we learn them.

Year 1 and 2 (Oak / Ash & Elm Classes):

- Our key homework expectation in Year 1 and 2 is to read with your child every day and record this onto their reading sheet. It is also important that you read TO your child, sharing stories and talking about what you have read. Reading is such an essential life skill and has a direct impact into other areas of the curriculum particularly writing. We want children to be

enthusiastic and passionate bookworms. We want children to love reading. So please encourage as much reading as possible at home.

- Additionally each term we provide a topic letter about our learning for the next term where we list suggestions for home learning ideas - we very much enjoy seeing these, sharing them and putting them on display. If you can think of any of your own ideas then please feel free to complete your own projects!
- In terms of maths we would really appreciate your support with developing the children's mathematical fluency, working on counting forwards and backwards to 100, recognising the tens and ones in numbers, quick recall of number bonds to 10, then 20 and then 100, doubles and halves of numbers up to 24, and times tables in particular $\times 2$, $\times 5$, $\times 10$.
- Finally, please talk to your children as much as possible! It is vital to the children's learning and development (particularly their writing) that they are able to talk in full sentences, adding detail and information and responding fully to questions and modelling this, at home is essential to support this learning.

Years 3 and 4 (Hawks / Owls & Eagles Classes):

Hawks Class (Year 3)

- Please read with your child every day and record this reading in their Home School Contact Book.
- Spellings will be tested every week and new lists will be given for the following week.
- Multiplication facts will be tested every week. The aim is to be able to answer questions quickly and accurately out of chronological order.
- To supplement pupils' learning of multiplication facts, they must complete 30 minutes of practice on Times Tables Rockstars at home each week.
- Occasionally there will be other pieces of work to help inspire and enhance our curriculum topics.

Owls Class (Years 3 & 4)

- Please ask your children to read aloud to an adult and spend a few minutes talking about the book every day. Please remember to sign the reading record if you are the adult that listens to them read.
- They should also spend a few minutes each evening practising their times tables targets (this link gives a copy of all the times tables, the more they know the better!). [Times Tables](#). All children in Year 4 are expected to take a Multiplication Tables Check in June; the children will be expected to know all times tables facts from 1×1 to 12×12 in 6 seconds or less.
- Children will also have a spellings test weekly, with a new list sent home to learn every week.
- There will be opportunities to complete other pieces of work to help inspire and enhance curriculum topics.

Eagles Class (Year 4)

- Weekly homework consists of daily reading aloud to a grown up from a school reading book (please record in their reading record).
- Daily practice of times tables so that they are competent up to 12×12 by the end of the year. [Times Tables](#). All children in Year 4 are expected to take a Multiplication Tables Check in June;

the children will be expected to know all times tables facts from 1x1 to 12x12 in 6 seconds or less.

- Practice of the weekly spellings using the Look, Cover, Write, Check method (see homework folder).
- Various homework projects may also be set around the termly topic.

Years 5 and 6 (Jaguars / Tigers & Leopards Classes):

- Homework will be given out on a Wednesday and is to be returned on the following Wednesday - this will include one piece of maths and one piece of English.
- Spellings will be given out on a Monday, to be practised at home with a test on Friday.
- Please read at home on a regular basis, children can then complete Accelerated Reader quizzes once they have finished their book.
- Various homework projects may also be set around the termly topic.

Recommended Time Allocation

Homework should never be too onerous nor should it ever create stress within the pupil's family. If parents have any concerns they should not hesitate to contact the school. Normally, more than one day will be allowed for the completion of a homework task, except where daily practice is to be encouraged e.g. reading, spelling and times tables.

The following are government recommendations as appropriate time allocations for homework activities.

Years 1 and 2 - 1 hour (60 minutes) per week

Years 3 and 4 - 1.5 hours (90 minutes) per week

Years 5 and 6 - 30 minutes per day (combined reading, spelling practice and homework)

Role of the Class Teacher

- To provide an explanation of homework tasks to children and, when necessary, parents and give guidance of how they might assist their child. This may be done by a note with the work, at an after school parents meeting or at an open day event, if possible.
- To set up regular homework in an easily followed routine.
- To ensure that homework is set consistently across classes in the Year group.
- To set homework that takes equal and racial opportunities into account.
- To ensure any homework is purposeful and links directly to the curriculum being taught.
- To reward and praise children who regularly complete homework tasks.
- To mark homework appropriately, when necessary and give feedback to pupils.

Role of the Head of School and School's Academy Committee

- To check compliance of the Policy.
- To meet and talk with parents when appropriate (after a parent has spoken to the school and feels a further discussion is necessary)
- To discuss with staff how far the policy is being successfully implemented.

Role of Parents/Carers

- To support the school by ensuring that their child attempts the homework
- To provide a suitable place for their child to carry out their homework
- To encourage and praise their child when they have completed their homework
- To become actively involved and support their child with homework activities.
- To make it clear that they value homework and they support the school by explaining how it can help learning

Role of the Pupil

- To complete their homework to the best of their ability
- To allow enough time to complete and hand homework in within the timescale set
- To ask for further help & support if required
- To find enjoyment in learning.

At Sherborne Primary School we are very keen for parents to support and help their children with homework. We take the view that children are likely to get more out of an activity if parents get involved as long as they do not take over too much. However, there are times when we will want to see what children can do on their own. It is particularly important, as they get older, for children to become increasingly independent in their learning. If a parent is unsure about what their role should be, they should discuss it with their child's teacher.

Racial Equality & Equal Opportunities

All children have equal access and inclusive rights to the curriculum regardless of their gender, race, disability or ability. We plan work that is differentiated for the performance of all groups and individuals. Sherborne Primary School is committed to creating a positive climate that will enable everyone to work free from racial intimidation and harassment and to achieve their full potential.

General

Wherever possible staff should try to mark any homework appropriately, that is returned by pupils. This will help to give the whole process of setting and completing homework a higher profile and status. It will also send out the message that homework is an important and valued aspect of school life. Marking homework is a way of keeping track of who has completed their homework, and giving them feedback on how well they have met the objectives of the work. However, marking may be done in a variety of forms, some of which will not be written. Feedback may be given to individual pupils, or to groups of pupils

If children are absent due to illness we will not send homework home. We would assume the child was too ill to work (however they are encouraged to catch up if they so wish)

If a child is absent for a length of time e.g. with a broken leg, the teacher and the parent will agree what should be done, how it should be marked and what sort of help needs to be given. In such circumstances the teacher should consult the class teacher first

It is not possible to give homework when parents take holidays in term time as Sherborne Primary School never encourages holidays during term time

Parents/Carers who have queries about homework should not hesitate to make an appointment to see their child's class teacher.

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