
Ponsbourne St. Mary's Primary School

Homework Policy

Learning at home is an essential part of good education. Regular homework is important as it gives pupils the opportunity to practice at home the tasks covered in class, and helps the pupils work towards improving important skills. It also helps children and young people to become confident and independent in their learning, which will help throughout their time at school and in adult life. Homework serves the following purposes:

1. To encourage self-discipline and personal organisation.
2. To create additional time for structured learning.
3. To bridge the gap between home and school.
4. To allow parents direct involvement in their child's learning.

For children in Key Stage 1, homework will mainly consist of daily reading with parents, (about 10 minutes). They will also have spellings and tables to learn and additional activities each week.

Children in Years 3 and 4 will have daily reading, (15 - 20 minutes), 5 minutes of times tables, 5 minutes of spellings. They will also have occasional topic assignments.

Children in Years 5 and 6 will have a regular weekly schedule of reading, (20 minutes (at least) daily), 5 minutes times tables daily. Weekly mathematics, together with occasional topic assignments.

Time Allocation:

It is expected that, up to Year 4, parents will work with and support children when they are doing their homework. From Year 5 onwards, children will increasingly be expected to do their homework on their own. This will help them prepare for the demands of secondary education.

- The setting of tasks to be undertaken at home will be normal practice in the KS1 & KS2.
- The frequency and length of tasks will vary according to the age and needs of the child, and according to the programme of work at the time.
- Tasks set will vary in their nature, and will not necessarily be of a formal pencil and paper style.
- Tasks may include amongst others e.g. reading, learning of tables, spellings or other materials, completion and/or extension of work begun in class, additional research, collecting information, investigations.
- If a parent feels that particular circumstances (e.g. prolonged absence from school) warrant additional homework this should be discussed with the class teacher. If the class teacher feels that additional work would be appropriate adequate time will be allowed for work to be set and materials to be gathered. Additional homework will not be set because a child is being taken out of school for a family holiday.
- Homework should be set for clearly defined purposes, not for its own sake.
- It will rarely be appropriate for homework to be set for new work which has not been introduced in class.
- Homework set should be followed up in class and it should be made clear to children that, unless clearly specified, homework tasks are not optional.

Failure to complete a homework task should be treated in the same way as failure to complete a piece of class work. . Parents will be able to provide feedback on reading by writing in the reading/homework book, and on number activities by making a comment on the worksheet or on a response sheet, if this is provided.

At the parents' meetings with teachers at the beginning of the school year, class teachers will provide details of their class's homework schedule e.g. spellings on Monday, number activity on Wednesday, topic reading for the weekend.

The homework policy will be evaluated each year using feedback from parents and staff.