

Whaley Thorns Community Primary and Nursery School Homework Policy



PURPOSE

To provide guidance for staff, parents and governors on the approach to homework in school.

RATIONALE

Homework is an important factor in raising achievement. Homework that is planned across the school has a clear focus and purpose and is a powerful tool that involves parents in their children's education. Homework has a variety of purposes and it is important that these are clarified and understood. We believe homework can play an important role in strengthening the links between home and school and in raising standards in achievement and attainment for pupils.

Purposes of homework are:

- 1 To practise skills learned in school (consolidation).
- 2 To provide an opportunity for learning key words and mathematical facts which can be applied in school (pre-learning).
- 3 To develop independent study skills.
- 4 To promote independence and responsibility.

The type and frequency of homework will vary according to the age and stage of the child.

AGE RELATED BROAD GUIDELINES

Reception - Parents are given a weekly learning letter, which highlights key learning points for the following week and how parents can support their child in being successful. They will be provided with a homework book in which to record one activity and the other activity will be photo based and should be shared with the class teacher via dojo. These photos get shared weekly during talk time sessions.

In addition, children will have a home learning pack with a book, number cards, a sounds booklet and keywords to practise at least 3 times each week.

Years 1 to 6 - Children will be given a weekly homework sheet where the class teacher will set a task for maths and for English. This may include: pre learning for the following week, consolidation of skills taught in class, a small project or writing/reading based activity.

Where a written response is required, children will complete this in their homework books. Where the task is practical, for example, a Maths of the Day Activity, a photo or screen shot will need to be sent to the class teacher.

In addition to this all children will be expected to

- Read at least 3 times a week at home and have their reading dairies signed;
- Log onto Timetable Rockstar and compete in the Battle of the Bands – no need for a screen shot as teachers can check who has logged on and earned points and tables will be individually set for your child;
- Complete spelling frame activities and send screen shots to class teachers via class Dojo – Year 2-6 only;

- Complete phase 4 and 5 activities on Phonics Bloom and send screen shots to the class teacher – Year 1 only.
- As children reach Year 5 and 6 homework may increase due to SAT revision.

A homework book is used throughout school. This will enable the children to record the work set and provide a vehicle for parents to keep in touch with the work and with progress.

Frequency of Homework

All homework is set every Thursday and needs to be completed by the following Tuesday. All children will receive Dojo points for the homework they complete. Equally, if homework is missed and there is no improvement after the class teacher has contacted parents, children will lose Dojo points.

Role of parents

For this policy to succeed in helping to raise children's achievement, parental co-operation and involvement is vital. Parents need to ensure that children have access to a suitable space to complete their homework. Parents working with their children even for just a few minutes will increase the benefit of the activity greatly.

Equally, parents must support the school in ensuring the homework is undertaken. We use Class Dojo to remind parents of their responsibility in this area. Again, it is very encouraging for parents when they receive a message complementing their child's achievements; for example, all spellings correct.

Role of teachers

Children are provided with a homework book.

Class teachers closely monitor completion of homework and use the procedure below. Teachers reward children who consistently return homework in accordance with the behaviour policy.

Homework should be returned by the due date; teachers monitor this and take the following action:

- Missed homework– triggers a message from the child's class teacher.
- No significant improvement over the next 2 weeks – triggers a further message from the class teacher inviting the parent to a meeting.
- No significant improvement by the end of the term – triggers a meeting with the Head Teacher.

Records of dojo messages sent will be placed in the child's file.

Planning for homework

Teachers will include homework in their planning. Termly newsletters will contain information about areas of learning within each year group. Homework will relate to these areas of learning.

CONCLUSION

Homework is a tool that should contribute to the raising of achievement. Work will be set and acknowledged to ensure that children will receive some form of feedback on their efforts. This may be in the form of peer assessment and rewards. There is no expectation that the work load of teaching staff is heavily increased through homework. Spelling lists, multiplication facts and high

frequency words will be tested regularly and progress will be discussed at parent consultation meetings.

The effectiveness of this policy is reviewed annually.

Signed:_____ **Date:**_____

(Chair of governors)