

Whaley Thorns Community Primary and Nursery School

Homework Policy March 2019



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 and Year 1- Children will be given a project based homework task which will be completed over the course of a term. This will help children to practise key skills that are being taught that term and consolidate previous learning. Parents will be provided with an ideas menu bank and the expectations for each project will be set out. Parents will be given the deadline date for completion and projects will be celebrated in class.

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.

Children will be rewarded with a sticker on their chart for completing the weekly tasks.

Years 2 to 6 - Children will be given a project based homework task which will be completed over the course of a term. This will help children to practise key skills that are being taught that term and consolidate previous learning. Parents will be provided with an ideas menu bank and the expectations for each project will be set out. Parents will be given the deadline date for completion and children will present their projects to the class.

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 once a week;
- Complete spelling frame activities and send screen shots to class teachers via class Dojo – Year 2-6 only once a week
- As children reach Year 5 and 6 homework may increase due to SAT revision.

Children will be rewarded with a sticker on their chart for completing the weekly tasks.

Frequency of Homework

All project homework will be set at the very beginning of each new term and will be expected to be completed and handed in at the end of the penultimate week of each term.

Weekly tasks will start on a Monday and be expected to be completed the following Monday.

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 in which they can record their project if they wish. If they prefer, they can use another method of presentation e.g. computer, scrap book, journal etc.

Class teachers closely monitor completion of homework and use the procedure below. Teachers reward children who consistently return homework. Children will be given a sticker on their class chart for completion of weekly homework tasks. They will receive a reward at the end of each term. Children who do not receive all stickers will not take part in the class reward.

All 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.

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)