



Homework Policy

At Topcliffe CE Primary School we believe that pupils' learning is strongly influenced by the home. The interest and involvement of parents in a child's learning and education is very important in helping them achieve their potential. Homework not only provides pupils with the opportunity to reinforce their learning but also gives parents the chance to be involved in helping their child progress to the best of his/her ability.

The purpose of homework

By setting regular homework for pupils, we aim to:

- develop an effective partnership between the school and parents/carers in pursuing the aims of the school and the development of their child
- consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding
- extend school learning, for example through additional reading and research
- encourage pupils as they get older to develop the confidence and self-discipline needed to study on their own, and prepare them for the requirements of secondary school.

Content of homework

Regular reading is vital as it gives pupils an opportunity to practice and rehearse the skills which are being taught in school. Spending time discussing the story or book helps pupils to understand what they have read.

In addition to reading, pupils will be expected to learn spellings that they are currently working on in class. This may take the form of a game or activity.

Throughout school pupils will focus on developing mental maths skills, including the recall of key facts and homework activities will support children to improve these skills.

As children get older homework provides an opportunity for them to develop the skills of independent learning. It is important that children should gradually get into the habit of regularly devoting periods of time, which may not be long, to study on their own. This will ensure that, in relation to homework, their transition to Year 7/secondary school is as smooth as possible.

Homework timetables

The class homework routine will be shared with parents at the beginning of each term through the class letter. From Y1-Y6 children will use a 'Homework book', spellings will be sent home weekly in the Homework link books.

Reception

Daily reading (approximately 10 minutes with an adult)
Learning key words and letter sounds

Year 1/2

Daily reading (approximately 15 minutes a day with an adult)
Learning key words/ tricky words
Weekly maths

Year 3 /4

Daily Reading (moving into independent reading)
Learning key words/tricky words/spellings
Weekly maths
Additional projects/ topic work

Year 5/6

Daily Reading (moving into independent reading)
Learning key words/tricky words/spellings
Weekly maths
Additional projects/ topic work

Homework will be set on a Friday and taken in on a Friday.

Year 6 pupils will be required to complete some additional homework tasks in preparation for secondary transition.

We actively encourage children to access recommended educational software such as RMeasimaths, Lexia (where appropriate) Times Tables Rockstars or other appropriate on-line resources. The school provides log-on details for resources purchased by the school and these can be found in link books.

Homework will not be set routinely during the school holidays, although pupils are expected to continue with their reading.

Meeting the needs of individuals

In setting homework activities, teachers will take into account children's individual needs to ensure the learning at home is at an appropriate level.

Setting the task

Clear instructions with examples will be given for each homework activity so the purpose of the task is clear. The task set will usually complement work the children have done in school at a differentiated level where appropriate. Some tasks set for homework are open ended which means all children are able to complete the task at their own level.

Marking homework

Homework will be marked and feedback given to the children; the feedback may vary from verbal to written.

Planning homework so that the demands on pupils are balanced and manageable

Class teachers are responsible for ensuring that the demands of homework are manageable for pupils and parents/carers on a day to day basis.

In school support

If any child does not understand a task, parents should encourage their child to ask their teacher for further guidance.

The role of parents/carers in supporting pupils

Parents need to support their child with homework by providing a peaceful environment, free from distractions, in which they can work independently to complete it to the highest standard. Often, particularly with younger children, parents will need to work with their child. Parents should make it clear to pupils that they value homework, and support the school by explaining how it can help their learning. Parents are asked to sign the Homework Diaries to confirm completion of homework.

The role of the pupils

Children should take pride in their homework and ensure they hand their homework in on time.

Signed:

Date: September 2016

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