

Homework Policy

KINGSKERSWELL C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL



Approved by:

[Name]

Date: [Date]

Last reviewed on:

[Date]

Next review due by:

[Date]

1. Introduction

At Kingskerswell C of E Primary School, we believe that homework can add much to a pupil's development and attainment and is therefore an important part of a child's education.

2. Aims of the policy

Through implementation of this policy, we aim to:

- Ensure a consistent approach throughout the school
- To encourage children to develop the confidence, independence, self-discipline and motivation needed to study on their own and prepare them for the next phase of education
- To make set homework relevant and meaningful for the child linked to work done at school
- Make expectations about homework clear to children, parents and other carers
- Provide opportunities for parents and children to work together, thereby, fostering an effective partnership between home and school
- Give pupils the opportunity to extend their learning in areas of personal interest

3. Why do we value homework?

Children benefit greatly from the mutual support of parents and teachers in encouraging them to learn both at home and at school. By valuing home-school learning, pupils are afforded the chance to practise skills, consolidate understanding of work covered in the classroom and to widen their own interests.

Moreover, developing good study habits provides an opportunity for pupils to develop self-discipline, independence and the ability to take responsibility for their own learning.

4. Principles

- The amount and difficulty of homework is tailored according to the child's age and ability.
- Sufficient time is allowed for the completion of homework to allow for a healthy home/school work balance.
- As the children progress through the school so the amount of homework increases.
- Teachers ensure that the tasks are differentiated, purposeful and aimed at developing and consolidating basic skills.
- Teachers provide parents and pupils with clear learning objectives and motivational instructions for tasks as well as clear examples of work to guide both children and adults.
- High expectations for neat presentation are in place to ensure that children maintain a similar high standard of work at home as in school.
- Homework should be linked to previous learning and key skills and must be meaningful and relevant
- Parents will be informed about our aims in setting homework and about the importance this type of learning plays in children's education

5. Homework Activities

Our homework is designed to build upon the concepts and skills that pupils have been learning across a range of subjects.

In addition to daily reading and weekly spellings, we set weekly homework tasks for each year group these include a range of engaging activities to motivate and inspire the children into becoming independent learners.

- Tasks can include activities or half-termly projects linked to termly topics, specific English and/or Maths tasks to consolidate and reinforce basic skills and understanding in these 'core' subjects. They may also include online activities such as TT Rockstars or Numbots.
- Tasks are to be completed in the children's homework books, on paper or electronically depending on the set task and uploaded onto Google Classroom.
- We expect well-presented homework tasks to be completed and handed in each week
- Pupils homework will be marked and feedback given on Google Classroom.
- Expectations for Homework will be explained to children and parents at the beginning of the new school year.
- Children may have the opportunity to complete more tasks if they wish to do so. Some tasks will may have an optional challenge that the children can complete to extend their learning further.

6. How homework is structured in each year group or phase

A breakdown of how homework is structured in each class is provided below. This has been designed to encourage a gradual progression of skills and expectation so that by the time children reach Year 6 they have established a clear routine in preparation for secondary school.

ALL HOMEWORK WILL BE ASSIGNED ON A FRIDAY AND SHOULD BE UPLOADED ONTO GOOGLE CLASSROOM BY 9 AM ON THE FOLLOWING WEDNESDAY

a. Foundation Stage

- Reading and sharing books daily; adults to keep a signed record in the Home-School reading record
- Half-termly 'Tapestry Challenges' – ideas for parents/carers to try at home and post photos and comments on Tapestry
- 'Numbots' online to support basic maths skills
- Access RWInc Virtual Classroom videos to embed phonic knowledge

b. Year 1

- Reading and sharing books daily; adults to keep a signed record in the Home-School reading record
- Learn 3 spellings a week – taken from the statutory spelling list for Y1
- Weekly homework linked to learning i.e. Maths, English, Science, Topic etc.
- ‘Numbots’ online to reinforce number bonds and place value at least 3 times per week
- Half-termly projects linked to a topic may be set
- Access RWInc Virtual Classroom videos to embed phonic knowledge

c. Year 2

- Reading/sharing books with parents/carers daily and recorded in the Home-School Diary with a signature from a parent/carer
- If children are not reading daily, children will be required to catch up with their reading at lunchtimes
- Children will be given a list of spellings to learn which will follow the statutory spelling list taught in their year group i.e. Entire list given out for children to practise over 6 weeks – assessed at the beginning and then assessed again at the end of the half term. There is an expectation that Year 2 children will know all spellings for their year group by the end of the year
- ‘Numbots’ online in the Autumn term at least 3 times per week and then learning of multiplication facts 2, 5, 10 using Times Table Rock Stars in the Spring and Summer term also at least 3 times per week
- Half-termly projects linked to a topic may be set
- Access RWInc Virtual Classroom videos to embed phonic knowledge and reading fluency

d. Lower Key Stage 2 (Years 3 and 4)

- Reading daily – if pupils are not reading consistently i.e. for 2 consecutive days, children will be required to catch up on reading missed during lunchtime.
- Reading records should be signed by a parent/carer each time a child reads and brought into school each day
- Learning times tables using ‘TT Rockstars’ (continuing with 2, 5 and 10 and learning of multiplication facts 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11 and 12 when ready) in preparation for Statutory Multiplication test taken in Spring term of Year 4. Times tables tests will be conducted weekly in Years 3 and 4 to measure progress
- A spelling list will be provided each week on a specific day and tested on the following week. This list will consist of 6 statutory spellings from the relevant framework and 4 words from RWInc spelling scheme
- Half-termly projects linked to a topic may be set

e. Upper Key stage 2 (Year 5 and 6)

- Reading daily – if pupils are not reading consistently i.e. for 2 consecutive days, children will be required to catch up on reading missed during lunchtime.
- Learning of multiplication facts ongoing - all tables to be revised, in any order, mixed and to include division. Use TT Rockstars to practise. Times Table test carried out weekly.
- A spelling list will be provided each week and tested the following week – this list will consist of 6 statutory spellings from the relevant framework and 4 words from RWInc spelling
- Children will be given 2 activities these will include either a Maths or English activity and a topic activity
- From the Spring Term, Y6 children will also have SATs revision as homework

7. Expectations

It is the expectation that all children will at least attempt to complete homework tasks to the best of their ability. If pupils need support to access these activities, they should ask their teacher for help prior to the date the homework is due. If parents require clarification or support with homework they should either telephone or contact the school office and their child's class teacher will contact them to answer any questions they may have.

Dates for handing homework in are always made explicit by the class teacher.

Pupils are expected to complete homework to the same high standards insisted on in class e.g. neat handwriting, using a pen or pencil (not felt tip pen unless otherwise instructed)

Accurate use of full stops and capital letters etc.

A written set of expectations will be written and placed at the front of homework and reading record books to inform parents of the standards we expect from each piece of homework.

How you can help your child with their homework

Below is a list of ways that you as a parent can show your child that you value their homework and the time and effort spent completing it.

The school will also provide clear and regular reminders of their expectation when it comes to homework. As a school we hope that you will find this guidance helpful in supporting your child fully with their homework.

You can show you value your child's homework by:

- providing a suitable place in which your child can do their homework, preferably with an adult to discuss, encourage and support
- making it clear to your child that you value homework and support the school in explaining how it can help learning
- encouraging your child and praising them when they have completed work set signing and dating your child's reading record to encourage regular reading
- ensuring work is complete and uploaded to Google Classroom or returned to school on time
- checking your child spends a suitable amount of time on homework

Additionally, you can support your child's development by:

- visits to libraries, museums etc.
- cooking with them
- taking your child swimming
- playing games, e.g. board games, cards, ball games
- watching informative TV programmes together
- providing opportunities for craft activities, e.g. cutting, sticking, sewing, painting etc.
- gardening and growing plants
- using the internet to research something with your child (following guidelines for safe internet use)
- talking to your child about schoolwork, their day, what they have been learning about and how they have been learning

Remember: Homework is about reinforcing, practicing and confidence building. Enthusiasing your child to undertake homework and modelling the high value of homework to them is of key importance.

Make it fun!