

Askwith Primary School

Homework Policy 2020-2021 (Reviewed May 2021)

We define homework as any activity that pupils undertake outside of school lesson time, either on their own or with the support of family members. At Askwith Primary School, we have a strong commitment to parental involvement and see homework as one way of developing this partnership.

Why do we give homework?

- It can inform parents about work going on in class
- It can further stimulate enthusiasm for learning
- It can be an excellent source for gathering topic information to share with all of the children
- It is an excellent opportunity to rehearse key skills such as times tables, telling the time, working with money, spellings and handwriting
- It helps to foster good habits of organisation and self-discipline in preparation for the demands of Secondary School

At the start of each school year, parents will be issued with homework guidance booklets. Homework will not have to be completed on a daily basis other than reading. Instead, a flexible weekly structure will be implemented to avoid pupil stress. The most important aspect of homework is regular reading activities.

Conditions for Homework

It is important that:

- Pupils are able to work in a suitable environment for the completion of homework
- Pupils have enough quality time to complete the homework
- Pupils receive regular, positive feedback about the homework

Factors which hinder the effectiveness of homework

1. Excessive pressure to achieve results creates anxiety, which is detrimental to true progress.
2. If your child is overly tired or unwell, it is important that they do not try to complete homework at that point.

Programme for homework - Reception

All pupils in Reception will receive a homework book and a reading record book. Homework will be set each Friday and should be returned to school each Wednesday. Reading record books will be sent home daily and should be brought into school daily.

Daily homework

Reading

Initially, parents should read to their child daily and record this in their reading record book. Once they are ready, one reading book per week will be sent home for the children to read aloud to an adult. In the front of each book, there is a list of phonic sounds, a list of words that require blending and tricky words that the children should sight read. The children should practise the sounds/words prior to reading the book. Each reading book is aligned to the specific phonic sounds that the children have been learning that week. They provide opportunity for the deliberate practice of sounds within whole words.

When parents are listening to their child read, some possible discussion points are:

- predict what might happen next
- characters - how do they feel/how do you know?
- whether the story links with another story

Parents should record their child's reading in their reading record book by adding the date and a short comment based on their discussions with their child. This could include:

- why they like or dislike the book/favourite part of the book
- any key phonic sounds or tricky words
- would they read it again? Why?

Please note: the reading record books have been personalised for Askwith Primary School. If a reading record book is too badly damaged/lost, there will be a replacement charge of £5.

Weekly homework

Pupils will be given short pieces of homework for deliberate practice/consolidation of knowledge being built that week in:

- Maths
- English
- Focused challenges

Homework will be sent home on Friday and should be returned by Wednesday.

Programme for homework – Key Stage 1

All pupils in Key Stage 1 will receive a homework book and a reading record book. Homework will be set each Friday and should be returned to school each Wednesday. Reading record books will be sent home daily and should be brought into school daily.

Daily homework

Reading

Two reading books will be sent home each week and should be returned to school daily so that they can be used in reading sessions during the school day. These books will be changed every Friday, allowing the children to become fluent in their reading. In the front of each book, there is a list of phonic sounds, a list of words that require blending and tricky words that the children should sight read. The children should practise the sounds/words prior to reading the book. Each reading book is aligned to the specific phonic sounds that the children have been learning that week. They provide opportunity for the deliberate practice of sounds within whole words.

When parents are listening to their child read, some possible discussion points are:

- predict what might happen next
- characters – how do they feel/how do you know?
- whether the story links with another story

Parents/children should record their reading in their reading record book by adding the date and a short comment which could include:

- why they like or dislike the book/favourite part of the book
- any key phonic sounds or tricky words
- would they read it again? Why?

Please note: the reading record books have been personalised for Askwith Primary School. If a reading record book is too badly damaged/lost, there will be a replacement charge of £5.

Spelling

Each week, all pupils will receive a home spelling book which will contain a new set of between 4 and 6 spellings to learn. Any misspelt words from previous weeks will also be included and should be practised alongside the new spellings. Spelling books should be returned every Wednesday in preparation for the weekly spelling test.

The children are aware of a range of strategies that they can use to practise their spellings, these include:

- look, say, cover, write, check
- looking for particular phonic sounds

- chunking groups of sounds

Weekly homework

Pupils will be given short pieces of homework for deliberate practice/consolidation of knowledge being built that week in:

- Maths
- English
- Science/non-core subjects (depending on the current block)

Homework will be sent home on Friday and should be returned by Wednesday.

Programme for homework - Key Stage 2

All pupils in Key Stage 2 will receive a homework book and a reading record book. Homework will be set each Friday and should be returned to school each Wednesday. Reading record books will be sent home daily and should be brought into school daily.

Daily homework

Reading

Reading from banded book/free-choice reading book. The children should keep a record of this in their reading record book by writing the date and a short comment which could include:

- why they like or dislike the book
- vocabulary
- interesting grammar
- words they might want to use in your own writing
- ideas for a story of their own
- effective use of punctuation
- any unknown words to find the meaning of
- recommendation and why

When parents are listening to their child read, some possible discussion points are:

- predict what might happen next
- characters - why they act in a particular way
- plot - twists and surprises
- whether the story links with another story

Please note: the reading record books have been personalised for Askwith Primary School. If a reading record book is too badly damaged/lost, there will be a replacement charge of £5.

Spelling

Each week, all pupils will receive a home spelling book which will contain a new set of up to 8 spellings to learn. Any misspelt words from previous weeks will also be included and should be practised alongside the new spellings. Spelling books should be returned every Wednesday in preparation for the weekly spelling test.

The children are aware of a range of strategies that they can use to practise their spellings, these include:

- look, say, cover, write, check
- rainbow writing
- looking for words within words
- looking for particular patterns
- pyramid words
- mispronunciation
- chunking groups of sounds
- mnemonics

Weekly homework

Pupils will be given short pieces of homework for deliberate practice/consolidation of knowledge being built that week in:

- Maths
- English
- Science/non-core subjects (depending on the current block)

Homework will be sent home on Friday and should be returned by Wednesday.

May 2021