

# Stock Primary School



## Homework Policy

Date revised: 29<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Date agreed by the Governing Body:

Date to be reviewed: Autumn 2023

## **Introduction**

Homework is anything that children do outside the normal school day that contributes to their learning in response to guidance from the school. Homework encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents to support children's learning. For example, a parent who spends time reading a story to their child before bedtime is helping with homework.

## **Rationale for homework**

Homework is a very important part of a child's education and can add much to a child's development. We recognise that the time and resources available limit the educational experience that any school by itself can provide; children benefit greatly therefore from the mutual support of parents and teachers in encouraging them to learn both at home and at school. One of the aims of our school is for children to develop as independent learners. We believe that homework is one of the ways in which children can acquire the skill of independent learning.

Homework plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment and in developing their practical and researching skills. We also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development. While homework is important, it should not prevent children from taking part in the wide range of out-of-school clubs and organisations that play an important part in the lives of many children. We are well aware that children spend more time at home than at school, and we believe they develop their skills, interests and talents to the full only when parents encourage them to make maximum use of the experiences and opportunities that are available outside of school.

## **Aims and objectives**

The aims and objectives of homework are:

- to help pupils to make progress in their academic and social development;
- to help pupils develop the skills of an independent learner;
- to promote a partnership between home and school in supporting each child's learning;
- to provide educational experiences not possible in school;
- to consolidate and reinforce learning done in school and to allow children to practise skills taught in lessons;
- to help children develop good work habits for the future.
- to inspire children to develop their talents and interests and encourage them to research a topic.

## **Types of homework**

We set a variety of homework activities. We encourage all children to read by giving them books to take home to read both with their parents and independently. We give guidance to parents to help them achieve the maximum benefit from this time spent working with their child. As well as specific homework listed below, we occasionally ask children to take home work that they have started in school when we believe that they would benefit from spending further time on it.

Individual children may also be given focused work to complete at home to help their educational progress.

We increase the amount of homework that we give the children as they move through the school. Parents will be informed of their child's homework. All parents will be encouraged to assist with the homework activities.

If homework is not completed on a regular basis parents will be contacted by the class teacher and the matter discussed. There will be sanctions if children consistently fail to complete their homework.

## **Homework:**

### **Reception Class**

- All children are expected to undertake reading/language activities at home for at least 10 minutes every day. These are provided in a reading pack which is changed weekly. These include books to read independently, books to share for comprehension and a phonics/keyword activity.
- From the Spring term children will take part in the Number awards scheme.

### **Key Stage 1**

- All children are expected to undertake reading/language activities at home for at least 10 minutes every day.
- Weekly book packs are sent home with books for independent reading, books to share and read for comprehension
- All children will have weekly spellings to learn – for Year 1 this includes phonic spelling patterns.
- All children will take part in the Number awards scheme and will be expected to learn their number facts every week.
- Children in year two will also be given a small piece of homework to complete each week. (20mins)

### **Key Stage Two**

- All children will bring a reading book home each day and are expected to read with an adult for at least 10 minutes every day.
- All classes will have spellings to learn each week.
- All classes will take part in the Number awards scheme and will be expected to learn their number facts every week.
- Weekly TT Rockstars to support the learning of times tables.
- In Year 3 and 4, we will also set one other piece of homework each week. (30 mins)
- In Year 5 and 6, we will also set two other pieces of homework each week. (30 mins each)

### **All Key Stages**

**Enrichment homework** is set at least termly; these activities will either be topic related or linked to a whole school project and will involve children developing a wide range of skills across all curriculum subject areas. Children will have a number of weeks to complete this homework, so taking care with the overall presentation will be encouraged and also pride in the finished piece.

**Responding to homework** - As each term comes to a close there will be a celebration of the Enrichment homework completed and brought into school. During this celebration time childrens' work will be viewed and praised and they will gain a sense of pride and achievement, recognising the pleasure of completing a project and learning about something new. The celebration itself will vary in form and will involve a range of people. Some celebrations will take place on open afternoons where parents will be able to celebrate their child's work with them. During other half terms the celebration may involve peer evaluations with children visiting another class to view and praise the completed homework or sharing their projects with others. It may be that we have visitors to the school, such as School Governors, who will view and celebrate childrens' work. During all celebrations children will receive verbal praise and feedback and children will have the opportunity to share with others what they have learnt

### **Pupils with special educational needs**

We set homework for all children as a normal part of school life. We ensure that all tasks set are appropriate to the ability of the child. If a child has special needs, we endeavour to adapt any task set so that all children can contribute in a positive way.

## **The role of parents**

At the beginning of each year in the 'meet the teacher meeting', parents are notified of the homework expectations for each year group and how they can support their child.

Parents have a vital role to play in their child's education, and homework is an important part of this process. We ask parents to encourage their child to complete the homework tasks that are set to a high standard. We invite them to help their children as they feel necessary and provide them with the sort of environment that allows children to do their best. Parents can support their child by providing a good working space at home, by enabling their child to visit the library regularly, by discussing the work that their child is doing and ensuring that the work handed in is presentable.

Parents of Reception children are encouraged to contribute to their child's ongoing assessments by uploading evidence of 'WOW' moments to Evidence Me.

If parents have any problems or questions about class homework, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher.

## **Monitoring and review**

It is the responsibility of our governing body to agree and then monitor the school homework policy.

## **Response to Covid 19 Risk Assessment – Autumn 2020**

To continue our policy of limiting physical contact between home and school, initially there will be a change in the general homework policy; any homework that is set will not be required to be returned to school. We have therefore decided to concentrate on our core skills of reading, spelling, handwriting and number/times tables facts and request that you as parents concentrate on these areas with your children. Although there will be individual differences between classes in the amount and type of work set, all work will concentrate on these areas. Teachers will inform you directly of the arrangements for each class.