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Grendon School

Homework Policy

At Grendon, we believe that homework is an important aspect of a child's education. It encourages them to realise that learning can take place outside the classroom, promotes independence and encourages them to play a more active role in their learning. Homework also allows parents, carers and the school, to work in partnership for the benefit of their child.

Our Aims

- To reinforce skills which have been taught in school and give children the opportunity to practice what they have learnt
- To encourage self-discipline as children take responsibility for their learning
- To promote independent learning
- To provide teachers with the opportunity to support and extend individual children
- To prepare children for secondary school and futures employment
- To encourage children to share their learning with parents and carers
- To encourage parents and carers to become involved with their children's
- To ensure a balance so children can extend and consolidate their learning with parental support while still allowing 'down time'.

There are currently no Government guidelines about the quantity of homework children should receive in Primary Schools. We know from consultation that while most parents do appreciate the value and importance of this homework, a few feel that we do not set enough whilst others feel there is too much!

In light of this and to try and achieve the correct balance, we have decided to use a tiered approach to homework at Grendon. This combines weekly tasks focussing on Maths and English, a half termly project style investigation homework that is more creative and signposts to online websites and activities that parents can choose to access with their child if they wish.

	Weekly Homework		Project Style Homework	Online Learning
Reception	5 x 10 mins a week	Reading books - either child reads independently, to an adult or adult reads to child.	Set termly, based on Investigation theme. Gives opportunity to find out, record and present information independently and creatively. Encompasses other subject areas and develops transferable and life skills.	Parents will be signposted to a range of online activities and websites designed to support learning. To be completed independently and will not be set or monitored by school.
Year 1 and Year 2	5 x 15 mins a week			
Year 3 and Year 4	5 x 20 mins a week	Spellings/phonics/word recognition		
Year 5 and Year 6	5 x 30 mins a week	Maths facts - counting, addition and subtraction facts, times tables		

This policy will be implemented consistently across the school. There will be a flexible approach initially in Nursery and Reception but by the end of the EYFS expectations will be in line with the rest of the school, but at an appropriate level. Children in Years 2 and 6 may have additional homework towards the end of the year in order to best prepare them for their SATs tests.

For consistency and in order to make expectations clear for all stakeholders, weekly homework will be set on a Friday, with spelling and maths club tests taking place on the following Thursday.

We recognise and value the importance of homework and expect children to complete at least their weekly homework. Staff will encourage children who are not completing homework to do so and will discuss this with parents where necessary.

The Responsibilities of the Class Teacher

Class teachers are responsible for the planning, marking (where appropriate) and monitoring of homework. Teachers should also ensure that provide a quality reading book that is changed regularly and monitored to ensure that it is at an appropriately challenging level. They should ensure, wherever possible, that homework is returned and that parents are kept fully informed.

The project based activity should be linked to the class investigation for that term. It can be set and completed at any time but children should have sufficient time to complete some (age relevant) in depth research. Parents will need to know your expectations e.g. children should spend 30 minutes a week for 4 weeks, and that any form of presentation is acceptable e.g. PowerPoint, show and tell, photos etc. When the topic is completed and shared in school children will receive verbal feedback.

Pink exercise books can be used as homework diaries, if needed and either blue reading diaries (Reception to Year 3) or review books (Years 4, 5 and 6) will be used as a dialogue between home and school.

The Role of Parents and Carers

Parents and children have been consulted in the update of this policy. Parents are supportive of the homework system although opinions vary as to the amount that should be set. Parental views on encouraging the completion of homework and implementing sanctions if homework is not returned to school have been incorporated into school policy where possible.

The school recognises the difficulties parents may have in supporting their child and they will receive help in doing so. Homework information booklets are available containing information for parents and class teachers are available to support both parents and children.

Parents will be encouraged to provide a peaceful and suitable place for the children to complete their tasks, check the task with the child and discuss any problems and encourage their children and praise them when they have completed their tasks.

Inclusion and Equal Opportunities

All children will have access to homework that is relevant to their current stage of learning and meets their needs. Weekly homework will be differentiated and based on what the next steps in learning are for individual children. All children are provided with equal access to homework. We provide suitable learning opportunities regardless of gender, religion, ethnicity or home background.

Monitoring and Evaluating the Homework Policy

Monitoring and evaluation of the homework policy will take place regularly. It will take place regularly and be carried out by the Leadership team and the Governing Board. Parents and children will be consulted as part of this process.