

Olive Hill Primary School



Learning together, achieving success.

Homework Policy September 2013

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 variety of activities instigated by school and families to support and enrich children's learning.

At Olive Hill we believe that homework is a very important part of a child's education and can add much to a child's development. Children benefit greatly from the mutual support of families and school in encouraging them to learn and to become life-long learners.

Aims

- To ensure a consistent approach to homework throughout the school.
- To ensure that teachers, parents and children have a clear understanding regarding expectations for homework.
- To ensure that teachers, parents and children are fully aware of the role they play with regard to homework.

Purpose

- To consolidate, reinforce and extend skills and understanding particularly in literacy and maths.
- To extend and enrich learning.
- To provide opportunities for parents and children to work together.
- To allow parents to gain an understanding of what children are learning in school.
- To allow children to progress towards becoming more independent learners.

The role of the school

- To provide parents with a clear policy regarding homework.
- To ensure this policy is fully and consistently followed.
- To provide support for families with information about homework.
- To provide support for the children with the running of a homework club in KS2.

The role of the teacher

- To plan and set homework that is appropriate to the needs of the child.
- To ensure all children understand the homework they have been given.
- To mark and give feedback about homework.
- To be available to talk to families and children about homework.
- To inform families if there is a problem regarding homework.

The role of the family

- To support and encourage the child in completing homework.
- To ensure the child completes homework to a high standard and hands it in on time.
- To provide the appropriate conditions for the child to complete homework.
- To provide the appropriate resources for the child to complete homework.

The role of the child

- To ensure they have everything they need to complete homework each week.
- To make sure they understand the tasks that have been set.
- To ask for help if they do not understand the homework before it is due in.
- To put in the same level of effort as would be expected of class work.
- To hand the homework in on time.
- To take on board any feedback about homework.

Homework in EYFS

In EYFS we set a variety of homework activities. We encourage the children to read by giving them books to take home to read with their parents. Not all homework will necessarily be written, it may involve playing number or word games or perhaps making something. Sometimes we ask children to find information about a topic at home, prior to studying it in school, which may involve a trip to the local library.

Nursery	Briefly what it is	Goes out	Back in	How often
Reading	Share library books with adults - basic book skills	Half termly	NA	At least once a week
Phonics	Practical suggestions such as games to play, sounds or words to learn.	At the beginning of a new phase	NA	Short 5-10 minute bursts each day
Maths	Practical suggestions as above.	Half termly	NA	Short bursts each day
Other	Cross curricular links to current topic.	At the beginning of a new topic	Flexible	In spare time

Reception	Briefly what it is	Goes out	Back in	How often
Reading	2-3 books sent home each week to share with an adult.	Weekly (after books have been shared at home)	Changed weekly (after books have been shared at home)	5-10 minutes per day in short bursts
Phonics	Homework folder, HFW fans	Tuesdays	Following Tuesday	5-10 minutes per day in short bursts
Maths	Activities relating to their learning that week.	Flexible	Flexible	Short bursts
Other	Topic based 'Home Learning Book'	Start of each half term (beginning in the second half of the Autumn half term)	The Monday before the half term ends	Flexible but suggested weekly

Homework in KS1

In Key Stage 1 the main focus of homework is literacy and maths learning, although topic activities will also be encouraged to enrich and consolidate learning. This will include, but is not limited to, reading, phonics and number skills. For children in Key Stage One we encourage parents to work together with their child to support them with their homework.

Reading - reading on a regular basis is vital. Children will bring their reading books home every evening and the role of the adult is to listen and support them. Share the book and foster a love of reading, ask open questions for example: What might happen next? It is an important time to develop language, build vocabulary and explore conflicts and emotions. The sharing of books sets the foundations for life-long learning. It is important to remind them to use different strategies to read new words. This could include sounding out the word, looking at the pictures and looking for words within words. At school phonics is taught as the primary strategy for tackling unfamiliar words and children should be encouraged to do this at home. Just as important is discussing the book to check that the child has understood what they have read. This could include asking them questions about what happened, why the characters behave

the way did etc. Children will have a reading log which parents/carers should sign or comment in each time they read with the child.

Year 1	Briefly what it is?	Goes out	Back in	How long should be spent on it?
Reading	2-3 books sent home each week to share with an adult.	Daily	Daily	5-10 minutes daily
Phonics	Usually a practical task related to the phase they are in.	Thursday	Following Wednesday	5 - 10 minutes
Maths	Activities relating to their learning that week.	Thursday	Following Wednesday	5 - 10 minutes
Other	Topic based	Flexible	Flexible	Flexible

Year 2	Briefly what it is?	Goes out	Back in	How long should be spent on it?
Reading	2-3 books sent home each week to share with an adult.	Daily	Daily	10 minutes daily
Phonics	Usually a practical task related to the phase they are in.	Thursday	Following Wednesday	10 minutes
Maths	Activities relating to their learning that week.	Thursday	Following Wednesday	10 minutes
Other	Topic based	Flexible	Flexible	Flexible

Homework in KS2

As children get older homework provides an opportunity for them to develop the skill of independent learning. It is important that parents and carers support their children but good habits of independent study should be encouraged.

The main focus for homework in Key Stage 2 continues to be literacy and maths however children will be given more varied tasks in other areas of the curriculum.

Reading - children may read to an adult, with an adult or read to themselves in the presence of an adult. The story and characters should be talked about and new words discussed. Older children need a clear understanding of the story that sometimes will go beyond the literal meaning of the text. Children will read texts that are more detailed and take longer to read. They should be encouraged to read all types of texts including non-fiction. Parents and carers of children in Years 3/4 are responsible for filling in their reading log every day; as the children move into Years 5/6 we encourage them to take more responsibility for their own reading log.

Literacy - this will be based around what the children will be learning in class. The work could be based around spelling or punctuation. They may be asked to read something and answer questions. Sometimes the task will be a piece of writing.

Maths - this will also be based around what the children are learning in class. The work could be linked to lessons on shape, measures or handling data. Lots of the activities will be based around number work. Children will be asked to make sure they know their tables from 2 - 10. They should be able to recite them and answer mixed questions.

Other areas - work could be linked to any other curriculum area e.g. science, RE, topic. It could take many forms, preparing a talk, completing a piece of research or conducting an interview. The nature of this work may be more open ended than in other areas.

Creative homework - each half term the children will be set a piece of creative homework linked to their topic work. This homework is open ended and allows them to work on creative project. Creative homework is usually set before a holiday therefore allowing the children to spend more time on it.

Years 3/4	Goes out	Back in	How long should be spent on it?
Reading	Daily	Daily	10-15 minutes per day
Literacy	Alternate Fridays	Wednesday	30 minutes
Maths	Alternate Fridays	Wednesday	30 minutes
Other	Flexible	Flexible	30 minutes
Creative homework	Flexible	Flexible	At least 30 minutes

Years 5/6	Goes out	Back in	How long should be spent on it?
Reading	Daily	Daily	20-30 minutes per day
Literacy	Alternate Fridays	Alternate Fridays	30 minutes
Maths	Alternate Fridays	Alternate Fridays	30 minutes
Other	Flexible	Flexible	Up to 45 minutes
Creative homework	Flexible	Flexible	At least 30 minutes

Additional homework

Children who take part in specialised lessons and intervention groups may sometimes be set additional homework to reinforce the work being done. Children should complete this homework alongside their normal homework unless the child has been told otherwise.

As a child moves into year 6 the amount of homework will increase, especially around the SATs revision period - this helps to prepare them for secondary school.

The role of the Key Stage 2 Homework Club

Our Homework Club is open to all children in KS2. Children may make the choice to attend homework club, others will be encouraged to attend if they are having difficulties with an aspect of their homework; for some children attendance at Homework Club will be compulsory as homework has not been previously completed.

Our Homework Club provides a suitable and supportive environment for the completion of homework and takes place once a week during lunchtime.

Children who do not complete homework

The expectation is that children will complete homework. Teachers will keep records of children completing homework and these records will be checked on a regular basis. If there are any problems with children not completing homework then the teacher will speak to parents/carers to find out why. There may be occasions when a child will miss playtime, some of lunchtime or golden time if they have not completed homework.

Presentation of homework

School - homework that is sent out to children in a written format will be of a high standard and should be on the school header/footer where possible.

Children - children will be expected to present their work to a high standard, following the expectations they are set in the classroom. Children will be provided with paper to complete their homework.

Marking of homework

Following the completion of homework the teacher will provide feedback in class and make an assessment of the work which will inform future lessons. Homework is stored in school and if there is an issue or misconception the teacher will feedback to individual children.

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