

Holywell Village First School

Homework Policy

Rationale

We believe homework to be an important element in developing the learning of the individual child. We also believe it to be of great importance in developing effective links between home and school.

It is vital that all staff and parents should be completely clear about what is expected of the pupils in homework and how it is organised and managed. The expectation is that pupils will complete any homework themselves with the support of parents if necessary.

The Purpose of Homework

To develop an effective partnership between school, parents and other carers in supporting and extending learning opportunities for all pupils.

To consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding, particularly in English and Maths.

To provide opportunities for parents and pupils to work together to enjoy learning experiences.

To provide opportunities for parents, pupils and school to work in partnership.

To encourage pupils, as they get older, to develop the confidence and self-discipline required to study on their own, thus preparing them for the transition to middle school.

Homework to be set for each class

Foundation Stage (Nursery and Reception)

Reception Only - 15 minutes 'reading' each night. This will include the learning of key words and shared reading between adult and child.

Ideas and activities may be given throughout the year to support individual learners. Children may receive 'home learning challenges' which are designed to be practical, fun and engaging and will support learning across the foundation stage curriculum.

Years One and Two

Reading books will be sent home each night. This will include key words (if appropriate), child reading to parent, parent reading to child and discussing books. Weekly spellings will be given and one or two other pieces of work. These will be mostly Maths and English although other subjects may sometimes be set.

Each child will be allocated a sign in for 'Numbots', an online platform which uses games and interactive features to help secure children's early mathematical skills. Children will be expected to play on 'Numbots' for at least 5 minutes a day.

Year One - Weekly handwriting practice sent home, checked by class teacher and returned.

Years Three and Four

Arrangements are largely similar to those for Key Stage One. In preparation for transfer to middle school Year 3 and 4 children are encouraged to keep a homework diary. This is modelled on that used by children attending our feeder middle school.

Each child will be allocated a sign in for 'Times Tables Rock Stars', an online platform which uses games and interactive features to help secure children's multiplication and division skills. Children will be expected to play on 'Times Tables Rock Stars', as instructed by their teacher.

Children will be set weekly spelling to complete

Topic Homework

In key stage 2, pupils are set a half termly homework grid which contains History, Geography, Art, Science, DT and many more activities to choose from linked to our topic in school. These activities should be completed across the half term and work produced uploaded onto Google Classroom assignment or sent into school.

Reading Books

Nursery - A love of reading will be developed through shared reading and the opportunity to borrow books from the school library (usually once a week).

Reception - Graduated introduction starting with fully decodable reading books.

Reception to Year Two - Whilst children are requiring their phonics, children will be given two reading books. One will be a fully decodable reading book and the other will be a book matched to their reading level.

Reception to Year Four - Children's reading books will be changed regularly. Sometimes children will be given the same book to read again if the adult judges the child requires further practice, particularly around their understanding and comprehension of the text

Special Educational Needs

Homework tasks will be differentiated where appropriate to meet the needs of individual children.

A variety of tasks will be set (not purely written assignments) e.g. tables, research, posters, poetry, investigations based around the home or local environment.

Homework tasks should be manageable by teachers.

Planning and Monitoring

The class teacher will be responsible for planning the homework tasks and ensuring that the demands of homework are manageable for pupils and parents/carers.

Role of Parents and Carers

The parent information booklet gives information on this point, however, parents should try to provide a reasonably peaceful place in which to carry out homework tasks; make it clear to pupils that they value homework and encourage and praise them as necessary.

All children take home a leaflet at the beginning of the academic year explaining the arrangements for homework in the forthcoming year.

Feedback for Pupils and Parents

Teachers will note pupils who have completed their homework to a satisfactory standard but they will not mark homework. Feedback and advice will be given to children when required.

The decision to apply sanctions upon pupils who do not submit homework will be dependent upon the age of the cohort. As pupils move through school, there will be an increasing expectation that they assume personal responsibility for the completion and submission of homework. Each class teacher will make their expectations clear to pupils and parents/carers at the beginning of each academic year. By the time pupils leave Holywell Village First School, they will be expected to complete all homework tasks and submit them on time; this is to prepare them for the next stage of their education at middle school/Year 5.

Monitoring and Evaluation arrangements

Feedback on homework will be sought via pupil and parent questionnaires, parent forum and parent comments. This policy will be reviewed every two years.

Date formulated: 14.9.21

Date adopted: 30th September 2021

date of revision: 27th January 2022.

Date of next review Spring 2024

Signed Chair of Committee : _____ Date: _____