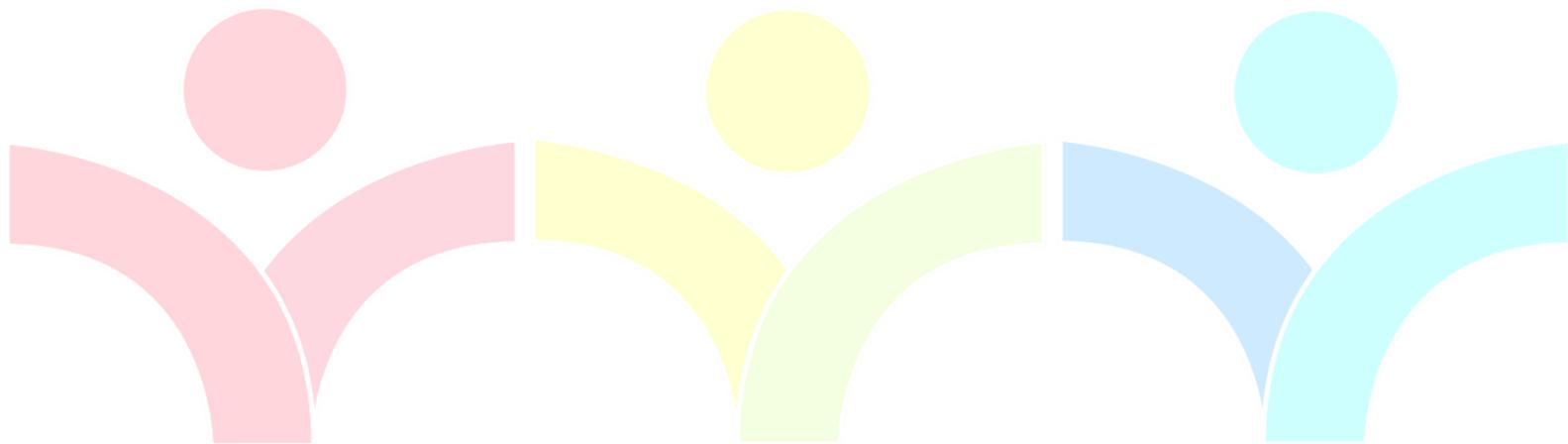




## Homework Policy

September 2020



## Why set Homework?



We view homework as a valuable extension to the work carried out in school. A number of purposes are served through appropriate use of homework.

Homework provides opportunities for children to:

- Reinforce work taught at school
- Involve parents in the learning process
- Revise key skills
- Undertake reading activities
- Practise multiplication tables
- Learn and practise spellings, spelling rules and patterns and phonics letters and sounds
- Carry out investigations
- Research topics
- Prepare children for the next stage of their education

## Views of stakeholders

The views of parents, pupils and other stakeholders are collected regularly. These views have been considered and have formed the basis for adjustments for the homework arrangements during the year 2020-2021.

## Context

All children at Hermitage Primary School are set homework.

The amount and the type of activity depend upon the age and the attainment of the child. Children are provided with a varied range of experiences appropriate to their ability and needs.

## Implementation

### Responsibilities

Head teacher – to ensure that there is an effective homework policy and that it is implemented and funded appropriately.

Class Teacher – is responsible for setting, resourcing and reviewing homework as well as ensuring that instructions for homework activities are clear, consistent and readily available. Homework activities are recorded weekly on the class' website page. Staff discuss homework with parents during parent's meetings and may comment on annual reports.

### Attitude

All children will be encouraged to form positive attitudes towards independent learning at home. They will be supported and encouraged by teachers. Teachers adopt a sensitive

## Homework Policy

attitude towards children who occasionally might not be able to complete homework tasks due to extenuating circumstances at home.



### **Inclusion**

All pupils regardless of ability, race or gender will be given equal opportunities for the development of homework skills. We will ensure that materials and resources used are unbiased, relevant and at an appropriate level.

We value the communication between teachers and parents about homework activities.

We will encourage children to bring in objects or books related to project work.

## **Scheme of Work**

### **Planning**

In teachers planning files, there is a record of homework set. Homework is planned to link to the work being taught in school.

Regular patterns of homework are requested by parents. A familiar routine is helpful for children, teachers and parents.

### **Monitoring**

To support monitoring of homework we will use a number of documents:

- Reading diaries – supporting the home/school link with reading (EYFS, KS1 and KS2)
- Reading Journals (KS2)
- Class page of the school website (homework tasks are recorded here)
- Spelling logs and spelling sheets – Y2 – Y6
- The Senior Leadership Team and members of the governing body monitor homework by viewing tasks on the website, talking with children about homework, examining project task sheets in teacher planning files and looking at homework books.

### **Purchasing Strategy**

On an annual basis, money is budgeted for the replacement of consumables including:

Spelling books

Spelling folders

Maths workbooks (Y1-Y6)

Reading Diaries

Reading Journals

Homework folders (as needed)

Paper for the copier is budgeted for

MyMaths subscription

Testbase subscription

TimesTables RockStars (TTRS) subscription



## **EYFS & KS1 - INFANT DEPARTMENT 2020 – 2021**

When setting homework, we aim for children to be able to practise some of the essential skills that they are learning in school. We see this as valuable preparation for the future and also as a way of involving parents in their child's learning. At the same time, we recognise that families are very busy and homework tasks can be quite difficult to fit in at times. With this in mind, homework tasks are planned to be useful, realistic and manageable.

EYFS and KS1 homework tasks are mainly based around reading, phonics, spelling and number activities. Details of homework activities can be found on class pages on the Weekly Overview and on the school website (updated weekly).

### **EARLY YEARS- RECEPTION**

#### **Reading and Phonics**

The children take home books to read at home and parents are encouraged to record the books shared in their reading diaries. There is a whole school reward system for home reading.

When appropriate, key word lists and Letters and Sound phonics charts are sent home. There are Letters and Sounds links on the Reception class page of the school website.

#### **Learning Journey**

Parents are encouraged to record the knowledge, skills and understanding children are showing at home in everyday play and interaction with family and friends so that this information can be recorded in their child's Learning Journey. Each child has an envelope in their reading folder in which to place the notes, photographs, pictures etc to send into school. At the Information Morning in September, parents are given information about the type of evidence collected in the Learning Journeys and how it relates to the EYFS Profile. Advice notes are also attached to the envelope.

### **YEAR 1**

#### **Reading and Phonics**

In Year 1 children are expected to read at home at least 3 times a week. Parents write in their child's reading diary to inform staff about home reading. There is a whole school reward system for home reading.

Teachers assess the children's knowledge of high frequency words and phonic knowledge; appropriate high frequency word lists, and phonics mats linked to Letters and Sounds, are taken home to practise. There are links on the class website page to home phonics resources and activities, for example, Phonics Play, Mr Thorne Does Phonics etc.

#### **Maths**

In Maths the children have differentiated Mental Arithmetic workbooks. Tasks are set fortnightly from these books.

Online 'MyMaths' Maths homework tasks are set fortnightly.

#### **Foundation Subjects**



## Homework Policy

The children may also be asked to complete homework to support topic work or other work covered in class. Examples include fact finding and interviewing family members, or using the school website and internet to play games or find information.

### **YEAR 2**

#### **Reading**

In Year 2 children are expected to read at home at least 3 times a week and parents write in their child's reading diary to inform staff about reading at home. There is a whole school reward system for home reading. In addition, some children have High Frequency Words to practise.

#### **Spelling and Phonics**

Children receive word lists of spellings to practise. The words are linked to the National Curriculum expectations for Year 2. Lists are linked to the patterns or rules being taught in school, topic words, high frequency words and commonly misspelt words.

#### **Maths**

In Maths the children have differentiated Mental Arithmetic workbooks. Tasks are set fortnightly from these books.

Online 'MyMaths' Maths homework tasks are set fortnightly.

Times tables homework is set on the online 'TT Rockstars'. The expectation is that children practise their times tables at least 3 times a week.

#### **Foundation Subjects**

The children may also be asked to complete homework to support topic work or other work covered in class. Examples include fact finding and interviewing family members, or using the school website and internet to play games or find information.

## **KS2 – JUNIOR DEPARTMENT -2020-2021**

When setting homework, we aim for children to be able to practise some of the essential skills that they are learning in school. We see this as valuable preparation for the future and also as a way of involving parents in their child's learning. At the same time, we recognise that families are very busy and homework tasks can be quite difficult to fit in at times. With this in mind, homework tasks are planned to be useful, realistic and manageable.

KS2 homework tasks are based around reading, spelling and number activities. In addition, independent homework projects are set three times during the academic year. Details of homework activities can be found on class pages on the Weekly Overview on the school website (updated weekly).

#### **Reading**

Reading Journal tasks are set weekly. Children choose a task from the list at the front of their journal. Tasks are linked to the child's individual reading book or to the class guided reading text.

## Homework Policy

Children are expected to read at home a minimum of 3 times per week and record it in their Reading Diary. Parents need to sign each reading entry. There is a whole school reward system for home reading.



### Spelling

Children are pre-tested on a set of words taken from the spelling patterns in the National Curriculum 2014, appropriate to their year group. This ensures the children are not being sent home words they can already spell. The children then have a personal target to improve their initial score by at least 5 points when they are re-tested on the spellings at the end of the week. Children who get all the words correct on the pre test are given words to learn from a commonly misspelt words list. In addition to learning the spellings for homework, children have taught spelling sessions between the pre-test and the test. Spelling lists are linked to the patterns or rules being taught in school.

### Maths

In Maths the children have differentiated Arithmetic workbooks for retrieval practice and basic skills. Tasks are set fortnightly from these books.

Online 'MyMaths' Maths homework tasks are set fortnightly. The children each have a login and password; once logged on they are able to see the homework that has been set.

Times tables homework is set on the online 'TT Rockstars'. The expectation is that children practise their times tables at least 3 times a week.

Year 6 are also set TestBase, SATs style questions, to help familiarise with the question format, layout and exam technique.

### Foundation Subjects

The children may also be asked to complete homework to support topic work or other work covered in class. Examples include fact finding and interviewing family members, or using the school website and internet to play games or find information.

### Year 6

Revision - March – May: during the revision period, leading up to the SATs tests, children in Year 6 will be given revision work to complete at home. This will usually be in the form of SATs style questioning and revision, they will have homework diaries in which to write any tasks.

**Details for homework projects maths activities, reading journals and spelling logs are sent home with the children; information can also be accessed on the school website (Class page – Weekly Overview).**

**Please note:** there may be occasions when homework will not be set, for example, if a teacher is absent, when children are on residential trips, during preparation for school productions and assemblies when children have lines to learn and at other times as necessary.