

# Harrow Lodge Primary School



## HOMEWORK POLICY

**DUE FOR REVIEW:**

**Spring 2023**

**RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S):**

**MS M CLARKE**

## 1. INTRODUCTION

In order that our pupils can attain the highest standard (spiritual, moral, social, cultural and academic), we recognise the crucial importance of an active, educational partnership between home and school. Homework is just one of the ways in which we seek to foster this partnership. Homework encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents to support children's learning. Homework is part and parcel of a good education, along with high quality teaching and strong discipline. There are many advantages to completing regular homework activities such as:

1. It improves your child's thinking and memory.
2. It helps your child develop positive study skills and habits that will serve him or her well throughout life.
3. It encourages your child to use time wisely.
4. It teaches your child to work independently.
5. It teaches your child to take responsibility for his or her work.
6. It allows your child to review and practise what has been covered in class.
7. It helps your child learn to use resources such as libraries, reference materials and computer web sites to find information.
8. It encourages your child to explore subjects more fully than classroom time permits.
9. It allows your child to extend learning by applying skills to new situations.
10. It helps your child integrate learning by applying many different skills to a single task, such as book reports or science projects.
11. It helps you, as parents/carers learn more about what your child is learning in school.

However, we realise that children spend a minimum of 6 hours a day at school and are usually tired by the end of the day and homework *can* become almost adversarial with parents. We are aware that too much study can make some children anxious and we know that it reduces the valuable time available for sports and play. We therefore think that homework should be kept to a minimum and be of a light, relaxed nature. Learning at home should be about people doing things together as a family – reading a book, playing a board game, eating, watching an interesting documentary, attending an exhibition that ties in with what the child has been doing at school. These things are incredibly important. Parents know their children best and they know how much homework is best suited to their needs.

Therefore, only certain aspects of homework are **compulsory** whilst the rest will be at the parents' discretion.

## **2. WHAT IS HOMEWORK?**

We see homework as encompassing a wide range of possibilities. The following list gives just a few examples:

- Reading with a parent
- A family visit to a local museum
- Undertaking individual research for a project at the local library
- Learning number facts (tables)
- Learning literacy facts (spelling and grammar)
- Literacy activities both written and verbal
- Consolidating maths and literary skills
- Being an active member of a sports club or youth organisation
- Going swimming
- A family outing to the park

It can be seen from this list that homework is a two way process. Teachers may ask for tasks to be done at home but are delighted to learn about children's success in other aspects of their lives and will seek to recognise this in school.

## **3. WHEN TEACHERS SET HOMEWORK THEY WILL ENSURE THAT:**

- It is clearly related to current areas of study within the classroom or to basic number or literacy work.
- The task is made clear to children and matched to their abilities, especially for those pupils with special educational needs.
- Time scales for completion and submission are explicit.
- Work is marked as promptly as possible.
- Problems or difficulties encountered by children are dealt with swiftly.
- Regular completion of homework of a high standard is recognised and celebrated.
- They are available to talk to parents and children about the homework.
- Parents are informed if there is a problem regarding homework.

3.1 Children are expected to complete the homework set for them in the allocated time. Each class teacher will set the homework suitable for the needs of the children in their class or set and will clearly state the return date. Homework handed in late will not be marked.

3.2 Homework will be posted on the online Seesaw platform. All children have their own personal log in and can access the tasks on there. Completed homework can either be uploaded onto Seesaw or printed off and handed in to the class teacher.

3.3 Each term children will be given a topic homework sheet which provides a range of possible projects linked to their current topic. Children are expected to choose one of these tasks to complete over the term and submission dates are given on the sheet.

These topic projects will be shared with all parents each term through a homework display after school at the end of term.

- 3.4 Homework will be completed at the discretion of the parent except for the compulsory elements.

#### 4. **THE ROLE OF PARENTS**

Parents play a vital role in fulfilling the overarching aims and objectives of carrying out homework. Firstly, parents should discuss with their children the following questions:

- When is it a good time to do homework?
- Where is the best place for homework to be done?
- What will help my concentration?
- How long should my homework take me?
- Should I ask for help with my homework?
- Who should I ask for help and how much help should I expect?

- 4.1 It is vital that parents display a **positive attitude** to homework and value its importance. It is also important to recognise that it is the *child's* responsibility to complete the work but parents *are* expected to help or guide children if necessary.

- 4.2 If parents have any problems or questions about homework, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher. If they wish to make a formal complaint about the school homework policy or the way it is implemented, parents should make their complaint as stated in the Complaints Procedure Policy.

#### 5. **TYPES AND AMOUNTS OF HOMEWORK**

The amount and difficulty of homework will increase in relation to children's age and ability. We aim to ensure that every child is given homework that is suited to their particular needs and that provides adequate challenge and opportunity for independent learning.

##### 5.1 **Homework in the Foundation Stage**

- Daily Reading
- Letter/sound recognition
- Letter formation practice
- Optional weekly practical task to be completed with a parent/carer
- Athletics & Bug Club online activities

## **5.2 Homework in Key Stage 1**

- Spellings
- Daily Reading
- Bug Club online
- Mathematics online
- Optional termly project linked to topic

## **5.3 Homework in Key Stage 2**

- Spellings
- Daily Reading
- Bug Club online
- 1 Grammar activity
- Mathematics online
- Optional termly project linked to topic

## **5.4 Homework for Year 6**

- Spellings
- Daily Reading and Bug Club online
- 1 Grammar activity
- Mathematics online
- Optional termly project (Autumn and Summer terms only)
- Additional SATs Practice (Spring term and Summer 1st half term only)