



Policy for Homework

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A good, well managed homework programme helps children to develop the skills and attitudes they will need for successful lifelong learning. Homework also supports the development of independent learning skills and provides parents with the opportunity to take part in their children's education.

Through this policy we aim to:

- ensure consistency of approach throughout the school
- ensure progression towards independence and individual responsibility
- ensure the needs of the individual pupil are taken into account
- ensure parents /carers have a clear understanding about expectations from themselves and their child
- improve the quality of learning experiences offered to pupils
- extend and support learning through reinforcement and revision
- provide opportunities for parents and pupils to work in partnership

Effective homework:

Learning at home is an essential part of good education. Regular homework is important because it gives pupils the opportunity to practice at home the tasks covered in class, and helps to pupils to work towards improving important skills. It also helps children to become confident and independent in their learning, which will help throughout their time at school and in adult life.

At Thornhill, we focus on the important skills of literacy and numeracy. We also encourage regular reading at home, especially with a parent/adult. Homework will always be related to classroom work and the task will be matched to children's abilities.

During half-term holidays when there is more time we encourage children to do other, more open-ended tasks such as finding out and preparing information related to their topic.

The role of parents/carers

It is not reasonable to expect children of primary school age to be able to carry out homework without some encouragement, help and support. Children need adults to help in the following ways:

- by showing an interest and keeping a careful check on what is done; ask your child about their work
- by providing a quiet place, free from distractions, to work in
- Supporting them with any difficulties, however if your child is finding the work difficult please let us know so that we can reinforce this at school

Please also let us know if the homework is taking too long to complete.

Special educational needs

It is not always easy to set the right amount of homework for children with special educational needs. Some children may benefit from work which is different from the homework set for other children in class. Work will:

- have a clear focus and time guidelines
- have opportunities for children to succeed
- have opportunities to develop skills in a range of areas
- be varied, not always a written task

Recommended time for homework:

There are no recommendations for children in reception class to have homework, but we feel it is important for children to have opportunities to practise their learning at home

- Years 1 and 2: 1 hour per week: Reading, spelling, maths and English work
- Years 3 and 4: 1½ hours per week: Reading, spelling, comprehension, times tables, maths and English
- Years 5 and 6: 30 minutes per day: Reading/comprehension, maths, mental maths, English

We will ensure that homework is an integral part of the curriculum and is planned and prepared along with all other programmes of learning. Homework should be seen as an extension of class work. There may be occasions when some tasks are more challenging or difficult than usual as homework plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment. We see homework taking different forms such as:

- reading with an adult
- finishing off work from class
- maths and English tasks
- open-ended assignments linked to topic
- suggestions made to parents in topic booklets

When teachers set homework they will ensure that:

- It is always related to work in the classroom

- The task is made clear to children and matched to their abilities
- Timescales for completion are clear
- Regular completion of homework is recognised and celebrated

Homework Book:

From Year 1 all children will have a homework book which will be used as a source of communication from school and from home.

This book will:

- include a class timetable so that parents/carers know PE times
- include half term information about what children are learning

Children will have a separate book for spellings which will be kept in class and will not go home. Children will bring spelling sheets home for daily practise.

Reception: Work to be covered at home:

- Daily reading: parents/carers will be informed/guided through the reading record
- High frequency words to learn
- Number recognition/formation/counting activities
- Topic related tasks

Year 1: Work to be covered at home:

- Daily reading: parents/carers will be informed/guided through the reading record
- Spellings to learn in preparation for weekly test
- English or maths tasks

Year 2: Work to be covered at home

- Daily reading: parents/carers will be informed/guided through the reading record
- Spellings to learn in preparation for weekly test
- English or maths task

Year 3 and 4: Work to be covered at home:

- Daily reading or comprehension exercises
- Spellings to learn in preparation for weekly test
- Times tables to learn in preparation for weekly test
- English and/or maths tasks

Year 5 and 6: Work to be covered at home:

- Daily reading or comprehension exercises
- Spellings to learn in preparation for weekly test
- Times tables to learn in preparation for weekly test

- Mental maths exercises
- English and Maths tasks

In addition, unfinished class work will be sent home for children to complete.

| Day sent home | Task | Completed by |
|---------------|-----------|---------------------------|
| Monday | Spellings | Friday: Spelling test |
| Monday | Tables | Friday: Times Tables Test |
| Wednesday | Homework | Monday |

Holiday homework:

During the half-term holidays we will ask children to undertake a longer piece of homework related to their topic. This may take the form of a mini project such as investigation, research/finding out.