



# **Homework Policy**

**Spring 2020**

# Marshgate Primary School

## Homework Policy

### Rationale

The concept of homework is encouraged at Marshgate where we regard it as a way in which parents can develop a meaningful partnership with the school and participate in the learning experiences being offered to their children. **Homework given by the school is an important part of learning but should be balanced with extra curricular activities and opportunities for informal family learning.**

### Aims / Ambition

Homework will:

- Be appropriate to the learning needs of the child.
- Be sent home regularly.
- Encourage our pupils to develop the skills, confidence and motivation needed to study effectively on their own.
- Consolidate and reinforce skills, knowledge and understanding developed at school.
- Extend school learning
- Encourage and develop a learning disposition in each child which will empower lifelong learning (School Aims and Values).
- Sustain the involvement of parents in the management of pupil's learning and keep them informed about the work the children are doing.
- Manage particular demands, such as preparing for National Curriculum tests.

### Objectives

- Homework will be carefully planned to support the curriculum schemes of work
- There will be high expectations of pupils to complete homework.
- There will be a regular programme so that all concerned - teachers, pupils and parents - know what to expect each week.
- There will be consistent practice in the setting, management and marking of homework across the whole school
- The homework policy will be monitored and evaluated on a two yearly basis (or sooner if appropriate) to check that it is supporting pupils' learning in the best possible way.

At the beginning of each half term parents receive a curriculum summary outlining the curriculum activities the pupils will be covering (also loaded onto year pages of the school website). **Parents are invited to support their child in these areas by providing appropriate reading/research materials and opportunities by arranging relevant family activities and visits.** In addition to this type of homework children in Early Years will be encouraged to take home, as and when appropriate, activities linked to literacy and mathematics which will allow parents to

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play an active part in their child's education. Throughout Key Stage 1 there will be an emphasis on reading, spelling, phonics and mathematics.

Once pupils enter Key Stage 2 there will be a gradual increase in homework including the introduction of some written research-based tasks/projects. This will be continued in the final two years of Key Stage 2 with careful thought being given to the next tier of education and the level of homework children will receive in secondary school. Although emphasis will be on self-motivation and the development of positive work habits, it is expected that parents will play an important part in checking homework is completed on time.

**Homework set by the class teacher should not prevent children from being involved in other activities outside school.**

Parents are encouraged to contact the school if they have concerns about any aspect of their child's homework. These are directed to the class teacher in the first instance. Homework is monitored by year group leaders and the senior management team as part of ongoing scrutiny and quality assurance measures.

**Please note that some homework practices have changed due to COVID including homework being set more often via Google Classroom (Year 2 upwards) and Seesaw (Early Years and Year 1). This is temporary and under constant review.**

### **Marking and Feedback**

In order for children to understand what they must do to improve their work, teachers regularly mark and return homework, this also includes feedback through Google Classroom (Year 2 upwards) and Seesaw (Early Years and Year 1) when set on these platforms. When appropriate, peer assessment/marketing also takes place. For example - children mark and correct spelling tests using purple pens. The children's progress is assessed and verbal or written comments made to ensure the children know how well they have done or what they need to develop further. Assessment of homework contributes to the teachers' planning of future learning opportunities and their judgement of the support or challenge required.

### **Outline of Homework by Stage**

#### **Early Years**

Homework in connection with literacy / phonics will be sent home on a weekly basis. This will usually include two reading books and a set of sounds/words to learn. The reading/contact book provides an opportunity for communication between parents and teacher regarding reading activities and progress, whilst at the same time supporting the monitoring of homework.

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Parents will also be asked to support their child by giving them experiences to develop their skills and knowledge in mathematics.

No particular length of time is set for homework in Early Years but it is expected that reading and related activities will take between 10 and 20 minutes each night.

**❖ Homework time is the time recommended by the Department for Education**

### **Years 1 and 2**

The reading/contact book will remain an important system for parents and teacher to communicate reading related activities and progress, and to monitor homework.

It is expected that children in Years 1 and 2 will be involved in homework activities each night. Formal tasks may not always be set but the emphasis on reading will continue.

As well as this, in Year 1 spellings are set each week from the spring and the children are tested the following week (spellings are linked to systematic synthetic phonics learning). Year 1 children also bring home high frequency and common exception words to learn. The children in Year 1 will also have handwriting practice sent home each week from the spring.

In Year 2, spellings are also set each week and the children are tested in the following week. A Maths game / IT activity (often on Education City) will also be sent home each week in alternate half terms for the parents to play with their child. This is related to times tables children are currently learning. Children in Year 2 have times tables practice sent home weekly from autumn term 2 with testing in the following week. In Year 2, the children also receive additional Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar (SPaG) and Maths homework sent home weekly from the spring term onwards.

It is expected that children will spend 15 minutes each night on homework-related activities.

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### **Years 3 and 4**

Children will take a reading book home every week. If your child is a 'free reader' they can change their books as many times as they want. Reading needs to be supervised and 15 minutes daily reading is expected. If your child is an independent reader,

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please check that they are regularly changing their book and encourage them to read from a wide range of genres (*i.e. type, such as adventure, non-fiction, sci-fi etc.*)

Homework is sent out in homework folders. Maths and literacy homework will be sent out each week (this goes out on a Thursday and is expected back in on Tuesday of the following week). IT based homework for both will be sent out on alternate weeks (week 1 – Maths IT/literacy paper based; week 2 Maths paper based/literacy IT). Pupils may also be asked to complete a piece of work started in school or to carry out additional research on an area of the curriculum they are studying in school. Weekly spellings are given out to learn in whatever way the parent/child feels most comfortable with. The children will be tested in the following week. Any sheets will be marked and returned as part of home/school communication. Parents can stick sheets into the yellow homework books if they wish. In addition to this, every three weeks a comprehension piece of homework will be sent out for children to complete. This is to be handed in during the following week when children will self-mark as part of comprehension lessons in school. Teachers will identify and address particular questions / groups of children as learning points in class. Teachers will make comments in homework books as necessary regarding comprehension. Parental support is required with homework as part of the partnership agreement between home and school and homework should be checked each week to note what has been set. Projects are sent out each term and are an optional extra.

It is expected that children will spend 20 minutes daily on homework-related activities.

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### **Years 5 and 6**

Homework at this stage becomes more formal and it is important that the children should take on more responsibility for ensuring that it is completed and handed in on time. It is likely, however, that they will still require support from parents to help them organise their time and to check whether work has been completed.

Homework in Years 5 and 6 may be connected with any area of the curriculum and will take many different forms including research work, finishing off work not completed in class, book reviews, re-drafting written work etc. At the same time children will continue to read and be involved in reading-related activities.

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In Year 6, revision booklets to assist with home learning are given out in autumn term 2. The children in Year 6 are also given an Easter holiday pack to work through over the holiday period and into the summer term in the run-up to SATs testing.

The amount of daily homework set, including reading and reading-related activities, will be between 20 and 30 minutes.

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