

Alverton Primary School

Homework Policy



Homework can be defined as any activities that children are asked to do outside school time, either on their own or with their parents or carers. At Alverton Primary School we believe that homework should promote a positive link between home and school. Through homework, children can see first-hand that home and school are working together towards common and shared aims in their education. Homework supports and reinforces such work and helps children become more independent as learners.

We are mindful that pupils have opportunities and experiences outside of school that are equally important in developing and enriching their lives. Our policy and practice therefore recognises the need for the children to have time to be children!

We have taken into account the views of staff, pupils and parents when reviewing this policy.

The Purpose of Homework

We see the main benefits of homework as follows:

- developing a home/school partnership and enabling parents to share in their child's education;
- reinforcing and consolidating skills and understanding;
- extending and supporting school learning, for example through reading; providing opportunities for children to use out of school resources found in the home or other places;
- helping develop the confidence and self-discipline a child needs to study on their own.

Homework needs to be a positive experience. It should be a time of sharing, talking and discussion with an adult at home. Short activities of different kinds - simple games, learning spellings and number facts and, of course, reading together provide a very important opportunity for young children to talk about what they are learning to an interested adult, and to practise key skills in a supportive environment.

Responsibilities

The school, pupils and parents each have responsibilities regarding homework. The **school** is responsible for setting homework appropriate for the child's age while the **pupils** are responsible for undertaking any homework set and remembering to take their homework home and return it to school in the time given. **Parents** and **Carers** are responsible for providing their child with time, space, encouragement and support with any homework they have including hearing their child read and assisting in the learning of tables and spellings.

Reading, times tables and spellings are the key aspects of our Homework Policy.

Reading

Regular reading is vital and is the most important aspect of our policy. You can support your child to make good progress in reading by listening to them read every day and using discussion about a book (and its pictures) to develop their comprehension skills.

Reading scheme books are issued by school staff and will be changed weekly. We encourage you to share a wide range of books at home but scheme books should be read regularly (ideally daily) to develop phonic decoding skills. Whilst children are reading at turquoise level or below, scheme books should be read **at least twice** over the week in order to develop reading skills with a familiar text. When pupils complete the reading scheme, appropriate reading books are allocated but fluent readers will still need support from home to develop their comprehension of the texts that they are reading.

The school has invested in Accelerated Reader, which is an online programme, to engage, support and help children progress with their reading and comprehension skills. Key Stage 2 pupils use this in school and will have access at home to MyOn (a source of online books) for reading at home. We do, however ask that children complete their end-of-book quizzes at school.

Times Tables

Pupils should regularly practise the times tables they are learning at school and reinforce those previously learned. The aim is that children will be fluent in all tables up to 12 x 12 by the end of Year 4.

Spellings

Spellings are issued most weeks from Year 1 onwards and should be practised regularly.

Topic Grids

Each term, the children are provided with a selection of activities linked to the class learning and covering a range of areas. From this, the children can choose to complete homework activities of their choice across the term. They are encouraged to choose activities across the range of subjects.

Activities on the topic grid are optional. We encourage children to complete a selection of the activities but there is no pressure to do so as we recognise the challenges that this can cause. Tasks that are brought into school are recognised and celebrated.

Homework in Reception

In Reception, parents are encouraged to read every evening with their child. As we are fostering a life-long commitment to learning, sharing picture books together is greatly encouraged. Books are always available from the school library to share at home.

In addition, the children will bring home books from the school reading scheme which are aimed at the correct level for the individual child and which they should read every day. They will also bring home lists of “key words” to practise.

Play-based writing and numeracy activities are suggested in regular correspondence to parents to support these curriculum areas. Occasionally, there may be a small, topic-based homework, such as bringing in an item from home.

Last review: July 2022
Next Review: July 2025