

Dorchester Primary School



Homework Policy

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Ratified by Governing Body:
Review Date: December 2022

Introduction

At Dorchester Primary School we believe that home-learning can offer our pupils a chance to consolidate learning and become more fluent with key math's concepts and life-long readers. Following the homework review in 2017, all stakeholders expressed a belief that homework should be proportionate to a child's stage of development and not be detrimental to the experiences that children gain outside of school such as family time, clubs and leisure activities. It is important to emphasise that although homework has its place and purpose, it should not take the place of other valuable times a parent and child spend together. Quality time at home with opportunities to follow the children's interests, to discuss and become involved in activities together are of paramount importance if our children are to feel happy and secure.

Aims and Objectives

To ensure that all of our pupils are provided with meaningful home-learning that reflects the current learning in school and provides appropriate challenge for each and every child, without detracting from other valuable home activities.

Through our home learning systems, we aim to:

- Create opportunities for families to work together and build positive relationships;
- Provide opportunities for children to consolidate learning;
- Ensure pupils become fluent and book-loving readers;
- Ensure pupils are equipped with multiplication facts;
- Help our pupils become confident and accurate spellers.

This policy is aimed to give a clear guide for teachers so that appropriate home learning can be set with a consistent approach across the school.

What does home-learning look like?

Children are set home learning each Monday, which is to be returned on the Friday of the same week. Home learning should include the following as a minimum:

- One set of spellings
- One piece of times tables practice / number facts
- 3 occasions of reading to an adult, with reading records completed
- One termly project which is related to the child's topic

All home learning should be at an accessible level for each child with minimal adult support. Other home learning tasks may be set. Examples of these are set out further in the policy.

Online or paper platforms

Each child will be given a paper copy of the above work each week to complete. However, we offer online platforms for those who prefer to complete work this way.

Online home learning is available to all pupils who are able to access learning from home:

- EYFS - Year 4 can access home learning via Purple mash.
- Years 5 and 6 can access home learning via Microsoft Teams.
- All pupils have access to Times Tables Rockstars.
- EYFS - Year 2 have access to Bug Club online. Some KS2 children working at this level may also be given a log on.
- Pupils with a particular difficulty relating to spelling and/or reading also have access to 'Word Shark'.

Planning home learning

Spellings:

Spellings should be set in line with the weeks spelling / phonics lessons and therefore appropriate for each child. Children working below the expected standard will be given separate spellings (below their year group) which will match up to the bespoke provision they receive.

Reading:

There is a minimum expectation that children should read three times per week, but we encourage parents to read with their children daily.

Reading records are to be returned on Friday for teachers to look through and communicate with parents where necessary.

Times tables:

Year 1 - Practice counting in 2s, 5s and 10s

Year 2 - Recall of facts for 2s, 5s and 10s and counting in 3s

Year 3 - Recall of facts for 2s, 5s, 10s, 3s, 4s and 8s

Year 4 - Recall of all facts up to 12 x 12

Years 5 and 6 - Recall of all facts up to 12 x 12

Work may be set on hard copy or, for those who are able to access the internet, *Times Table Rock stars*.

Termly project:

Once per term, children will be set an open-ended home learning task that is designed to engage both children and parents with the term's topic e.g. build a solar system model, design and make a healthy meal or create a model air raid shelter. We encourage children to be as creative as possible and celebrate all projects via the school Facebook page.

Other home learning tasks

Class Maths Activities:

During their maths lessons children are asked to complete a wide range of problem-solving tasks ranging from Bronze level to Gold level (most challenging). Children may choose to bring these tasks home at any point during the week as additional practice.

Revision Guides:

SAT's revision guides are available for reading, maths, spelling, punctuation and grammar for all year 6 pupils.

Extra Home learning:

We encourage and celebrate any extension or enrichment tasks which children choose to complete. If a child is fascinated by a topic or task and requests longer to work on it, great!

Mind Maps/ Pictures -reflecting upon and representing what they have been learning during the week.

Flipped Learning / Pre-learning research-finding out about what they will be learning next week or next half term to prepare themselves.

Researching further around their learning – children may wish to visit a library or use the internet to research more about a skill, concept, person or place they have learnt about at school.

Recommended websites and Apps – these are shared in newsletters, at open classroom events and there are also links available on the school website.

Recommended visits – children may wish to visit places outside of the school day (places of interest, sporting events, museums and galleries) which link to what they have been learning about at school.

Extra Self-Selected tasks - Some children may feel very passionate about some aspects of their learning or an outside school interest or hobby. If they want to complete activities, research outside school and share this we are always delighted to celebrate this in class.

The Role of Parents/Carers

We believe that parents/carers have a fundamental role to play in helping children to learn and embed learning from home. We encourage parents to:

- Support their child to complete home learning tasks in creative and enjoyable ways.
- Encourage their child to read at least three times per week.
- Communicate with the class teacher if their child finds tasks challenging or not challenging enough.
- Make sure children have a good nights sleep so that they are able to complete home learning tasks without becoming overly tired or distressed.
- Ensure they do not let home learning become a point of distress for their child.

Pupils with Special Educational Needs

We set homework for all children as a normal part of school life. We ensure that all tasks set are appropriate to the ability of the child. If a child has special needs, we endeavour to adapt any task set so that all children can contribute in a positive way. Where children have an Educational Health Care Plan (EHCP), these should be referred to when setting suitable home learning tasks. Parents are encouraged to work on targets from their child's EHCP at home in addition to their child's home learning.

Monitoring and Review

We are aware of the need to review the school's home learning policy regularly so that we can take account of our school community's needs, changes in curriculum, developments in technology or online learning platforms.

COVID 19 procedures

As part of the school risk assessment, home learning and reading books will be quarantined for 72 hours before returning to shelves/ being looked at by the class teacher. School will send a new home reading book home each Monday and this should be returned by Friday each week to be changed.

Online or paper home learning will be set by the class teacher for those pupils who are self-isolating throughout the pandemic. Learning should reflect the planned learning for that week to minimise the lost learning that isolating incurs.

Wherever possible, school will provide devices and/ or internet dongles for those children who do not have access to either so that a two-way communication can be had between teacher and pupil.

Staff will follow the home learning flowchart throughout a period of isolation to ensure children and families are well supported to complete home learning.

Reviewer: Assistant Head / Curriculum Leader