

## *Hambrook Primary School*

### Homework Policy

#### Rationale

We believe that a partnership between school and home enhances the quality of children's learning whilst supporting and extending the curriculum. There is an expectation that all pupils will participate in age appropriate homework and that all parents will support this. It is the involvement of parents/carers in joint activities, which can be very brief, which is most valuable in promoting children's learning at home.

Homework will generally be used to:

- practise what has been learnt in school;
- revise learning from previous lessons or
- prepare for future lessons e.g. carry out research before a topic begins.

The foundations of effective homework practices are established early on and develop progressively across the key stages.

#### Aims

- To ensure that parents, teachers and children are clear about what the role they play with regard to homework
- To use homework as a tool to help continue to raise standards of attainment.
- To improve the quality of the learning experience offered to pupils and to extend it beyond the classroom environment.
- To encourage pupils and their parents to share and enjoy learning experiences.
- To reinforce work covered in class by providing further opportunities for individual reinforcement.
- To encourage children to develop the responsibility, confidence and self-discipline needed to study independently.
- To prepare Year 6 pupils for the transfer to secondary school.

#### Guidelines

- Homework will follow a timetable which makes clear when homework will be issued.
- Children will be given a set time to hand in homework. If homework is not handed in on the designated day, it may not be marked.
- There will always be a purpose for the homework - it will not be a random activity set to occupy the pupils.
- In Key Stage 1 pupils will have a Home Communication book which provides a means of communication with parents, teachers and Teaching Assistants to convey information, raise concerns or celebrate achievements.
- In Key Stage 2 the homework will be recorded in a dedicated homework book or folder.
- The main focus of homework for all children will be on literacy and numeracy.
- Tasks will build upon and/or extend school based learning.
- Homework tasks will be differentiated by task, support or expected outcomes.
- Homework will gradually increase in complexity and duration during a child's school career. As children progress throughout the school they will be expected to take an increased responsibility for the organisation of tasks and necessary equipment.
- Homework may involve web based activities such as Times Tables Rock Stars etc.

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### SEN children

- Some children with Special Educational Needs will benefit from special tasks separate from the homework set for the other children in the class.
- Tasks for children with SEN should: have a clear focus and time-guideline; give plenty of opportunities for children to succeed; help develop social as well as other skills where necessary; be varied and not purely written assignments; be manageable for teachers.

### Role of the Class Teacher

- To explain the home work policy with parents at the 'Meet the Teacher' meeting in September.
- To reward and praise children who regularly complete homework tasks.
- To ensure all homework is marked - this may involve the use of adults other than the class teacher, peer marking and self-assessment.
- To ensure homework tasks are shared on the class learning platform or pages on the website.
- To follow up with any children (or their parents/carers) who are not completing homework to an acceptable standard.

### Role of Parents/Carers

- To support the school by ensuring that their child attempts the homework.
- To provide an appropriate level of support for tasks undertaken at home and to be actively involved in joint activities with children when required.
- To provide a reasonably peaceful, suitable place in which children can do their homework.
- To encourage and praise their child when completing homework.
- To ensure all work is handed in on time.
- To keep the teacher informed if tasks are taking too long or circumstances have meant that homework could not be completed and how much assistance has been given.

### Marking and Responding

Children will be rewarded with a stamp for reading 5x a week. Whilst we acknowledge that pupils spend a great deal of time and effort on homework, the teachers have to balance their own time and effort so that their emphasis remains on lessons and work completed within the school day. To this end, work completed at home, will not be marked as thoroughly as the work completed in class. This does not mean that we value it any less.

### Holiday Periods

We fully recognise the busy lives that families lead, and how important it is for families to spend time together and for children to relax and have fun when not at school. Therefore as a general rule holiday homework is not set. However, we expect children to carry on reading over the holidays, and practising their letter sounds as appropriate. Some short tasks may be set, as appropriate, for example a book review or piece of topic research. The only exception to this is for Year 6 in the run-up to SATs, particularly at Easter.

Where parents choose to take children out of school on holiday during term it is the parent's responsibility to arrange any work they may wish their child to do.

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### Recommended Daily Homework Programme between Monday and Friday

Please note that the timings below are recommended over 5 weekdays, but families may choose to complete homework at weekends to fit in with their after school activities.

We believe that reading should be at the heart of homework. Ideally, all children should read every night, either with an adult or, as they progress, on their own. The expectation is that children should read at least 5 times a week.

Year Group	Suggested Time	Focus
Reception	10mins/day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Daily reading (5 x per week)</li><li>✓ Letters and Sounds</li></ul>
Year 1	15mins/day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Daily reading (5 x per week)</li><li>✓ Phonics practice</li><li>✓ Optional topic related tasks</li></ul>
Year 2	15mins/day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Daily reading (5 x per week)</li><li>✓ Regular spelling practice (common exceptional words)</li><li>✓ Literacy or maths task</li><li>✓ Topic related tasks</li></ul>
Year 3	20mins/day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Daily reading (5 x per week)</li><li>✓ Regular spelling practice (common exceptional words and spelling patterns)</li><li>✓ Literacy or maths task</li><li>✓ Topic related task/project</li></ul>
Year 4	20mins/day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Daily reading (5 x per week)</li><li>✓ Regular spelling practice (spelling patterns)</li><li>✓ Weekly times tables practice</li><li>✓ Literacy or maths task</li><li>✓ Topic related task/project</li></ul>
Year 5	25mins/day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Daily reading (5 x per week)</li><li>✓ Regular spelling practice (year 5 &amp; year 6 word list)</li><li>✓ Grammar/ punctuation tasks</li><li>✓ Maths including regular times tables practice</li><li>✓ Topic related task/project</li></ul>

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Year 6	30mins/day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Daily reading (5 x per week)</li><li>✓ Regular spelling practice (year 5 &amp; year 6 word list)</li><li>✓ Grammar/ punctuation tasks</li><li>✓ Maths - including regular times tables practice</li><li>✓ SATs preparation</li></ul>

### Homework Extension

We recognise that some parents may want either a lesser or a greater amount of homework than we give.

For parents who want more homework, we suggest that they should work with their child either to extend the activities we set, or provide their child with completely different challenges. There are many helpful websites and apps available with interactive activities for families to access independently (see our website for ideas).

If any parents feel the amount of homework set is too great, please discuss this with your child's teacher in the first instance.

Any homework set should be differentiated and so be within the child's capabilities with some support from an adult. We do recommend that parents discuss the work set with their children, as this forms a vital link between school and home.

Policy Agreed: Autumn 2016

Review Date: Summer 2020

Appendix

10 things you can do to help your child learn

1. Give your child confidence through lots of praise and encouragement.

- As a parent, you have tremendous power to strengthen your child's confidence - and confidence is vital to learning.
- Provide specific praise that focuses on a particular aspect of their work. Comments such as "I like the way you have..." is more effective than "You're clever!"

2. Read to, and with, your child as much as possible. Early readers need to read words with fluency and intonation, advanced readers also need to understand and discuss their reading.

- The Government is encouraging parents to read to children, hear them read, or encourage them to read to themselves for at least 20 minutes a day.
- Older children still need to read regularly. Also talking to them about the book and discussing the meaning of words and discussing your own reading encourages and deepens interest and knowledge of reading.

3. Encourage children to observe and talk about their surroundings.

- Even young children can be helped to read notices and signs, for example, and understand what they mean.

4. Make use of your local library.

- Look out for special events and services for children.

5. Visit museums and places you think your child might find interesting.

- Children now have free admission to major national museums and art galleries.

6. If your children like watching television, watch it with them sometimes and encourage them to talk about what they have seen. They will get more out of the experience.

7. Set time aside to do "homework" activities with young children making it part of the daily routine.

8. Wherever possible, try to provide a reasonably quiet place for children to do homework (or help them to get to other places where homework can be done).

9. Encourage your child to discuss homework with you, including feedback from teachers.

10. Try to help your child to see the enjoyable aspects of homework.