

## **Dinnington First School Homework Policy**

### **Rationale**

Homework is given to consolidate, reinforce and extend the skills introduced in school. At the same time it provides opportunities for parents and children to work together so that parents have a better understanding of what their child is learning in school. Homework also allows children to progress towards becoming more independent learners.

### **What are the aims of this policy?**

- To ensure a consistent approach to homework throughout the school.
- To ensure that teachers, parents and children have a clear understanding regarding expectations for homework.
- To ensure that teachers, parents and children are fully aware of the role they play with regard to homework.

### **What is the role of the school?**

- To provide parents with a clear policy regarding homework.
- To ensure this policy is fully and consistently followed.
- To provide support for parents with information about homework.
- To support parents and provide resources for homework where appropriate.

### **What is the role of the teacher?**

- To plan and set a programme of homework that is appropriate to the needs of the child.
- To ensure all children understand the homework they have been given.
- To mark and give feedback about homework.
- To be available to talk to parents and children about homework.
- To inform parents if there is a problem regarding homework.

### **What is the role of the parent?**

- To support the child in completing homework.
- To ensure the child completes homework to a high standard and hands it in on time.
- To provide the appropriate conditions for the child to complete the homework.

### **What is the role of the child?**

- To ensure they have everything they need to complete homework.
- To make sure they understand the tasks that have been set.
- To put in the same level of effort as would be expected of class work.
- To hand the homework in on time.
- To take on board any feedback about homework.

## Homework in Foundation Stage

### Reading

In Nursery, during the autumn term children are given a nursery rhyme booklet so that they can learn nursery rhymes at home. Children can also take books home from the Nursery library. In the spring term children will be given a book to take home on alternate weeks, where they will focus on main characters, story structure and discuss the illustrations. Children will also be given investigation bags. In Reception class, parents will be informed of the phonemes and high frequency words that the children are learning in school as they are learnt in lessons or at the child's pace. Starting in the autumn term and continuing all year, the main emphasis is on reading at home. This should be done in two ways:

- Adults reading to children. Parents are encouraged to share books from their own homes and local libraries. They are also asked to share reading in the environment when it is appropriate i.e. signs and captions in the street. Parents should encourage children to point to words as they are being read. Discussion about the books is important.
- Children reading to an adult. When they are ready to, children will start bringing simple books home to 'read' to an adult. Some of the books in the first term may be 'text less books' -much valuable conversation and discussion can be had about the pictures and the layout of the book. Again, encouraging the child to point to the words as they are being read is important. Discussing the story and the characters and asking questions about the book will help with the child's understanding of language.

### Tricky Words.

Children learn to read tricky words as part of 'Letters and Sounds'. These are listed at the back of the pathway booklets. Regularly practising reading them, looking out for the words in reading books and playing games with them will really benefit the child. For some children, it will be useful to practise writing the words as well as reading them.

### Letter formation.

At the first parents' meetings held in October the reception class teacher will provide parents with a sheet to support children with letter formation. This shows where to start when forming each letter and what each letter should look like. Giving children the opportunity to practise forming letters and also developing drawing skills with a variety of different tools will give them valuable practice. The important thing is to watch them and correct any mistakes sensitively so they don't fall into bad habits.

In the spring term the children will be given a handwriting and phonic activity on a weekly basis. Parents may comment on their child's pencil grip, phonic awareness and letter formation.

### Mathematics

In the spring term children in reception class will be given a mathematics game to take home on a weekly basis too

## **Homework in Key Stage 1.**

### Reading.

Reading on a regular basis is vital when children are in Year 1 and 2. Children will bring their reading books home every evening and the role of the adult is to listen and support them. It is important to remind them to use different strategies to read new words, sounding out the word, looking at the pictures and looking for words within words are ways in which the child can read an unknown word. Just as important is discussing the book to check that the child has understood what has been read. Children will have a reading record which parents/carers should sign or comment in each time they read with the child.

### High Frequency Words.

Children will have daily phonics and spelling sessions throughout Key Stage 1, which will also include ways that children can build up a secure sight vocabulary. It is vital that children build up a bank of words, which they can read and spell on sight. Children will bring home some words each week for them to read, write and learn. Parents can help children to learn these by practising them regularly and often. Children will often receive the same words again in order to practise them further. Children should be given the opportunity to practise their words over the summer holiday.

### Written Tasks

Children will be set a number of topic related tasks that they can choose from each half term. There will be at least one maths and one English compulsory activity related to the topic and at the end of the half term children will be given time to present their homework/favourite activity to the class.

## **Homework in Key Stage 2**

As children get older, homework provides an opportunity for them to develop the skill of independent learning. It is important that parents support their children but good habits of independent study should be encouraged. As in Key Stage 1, children will be set a number of topic related tasks that they can choose from each half term. There will be at least one maths and one English compulsory activity related to the curriculum and at the end of the half term children will be given time to present their homework/favourite activity to the class.

### Reading.

Children may read to an adult, with an adult or read to themselves in the presence of an adult. The story and characters should be talked about and new words discussed. Older children need a clear understanding of the story that sometimes will go beyond the literal meaning of the text. Children will read texts that are more detailed and will take longer to read. They should be encouraged to read all types of texts including non-fiction

## English

This will be based around what the children will be learning in class. The work could be based on spelling and/or writing in a specific genre taught in class. Children will be expected to learn spellings from memory. They may be asked to read text and answer questions.

## Mathematics

This will also be based around what the children will be learning in class. The work could be linked to lessons on shape, measures or handling data. Lots of the activities will be based around number work and learning tables. During the course of the year children in Year 2,3 and 4 will be introduced to 'My Maths' an online interactive mathematics programme. This will be used in school and as a homework activity.

How can parents find out more information about homework?

The half termly homework information will give parents links and useful websites so that they can help children at home. In Key Stage 1 homework will be due in during the last week of the half term. Key Stage 2 children are given two hand in dates to keep them on track. Teachers will remind all children about hand in dates. If parents need advice on how to support their children with homework then they can talk to the class teacher.

What about children who don't complete homework?

The expectation is that children will complete homework. Teachers will keep records of children completing homework and these records will be checked on a regular basis. If there are any problems with children not completing homework then the teacher will speak to children or parents to find out why this is the case.

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