



# ANDOVERSFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Homework Policy

Reviewed by FGB in September 2018, signed M. A. Davies 28.09.2018

At Andoversford Primary School we recognise the vital role parents play in the education of their children. We strongly believe in the value of home-school partnership, of which our homework policy is an important element.

### THE PURPOSE OF HOMEWORK

Homework is any work or activity which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents or carers. At Andoversford Primary School teaching staff recognise that pupils who have spent a busy structured day at school need time to relax and unwind at the end of the afternoon and we actively encourage children to pursue out of-school activities, e.g. swimming, Beavers, Brownies, music lessons etc. We also see homework as a vital tool to

- develop an effective partnership between the school and parents and other carers in pursuing the aims of the school and the development of their child
- consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding, particularly in English and Mathematics
- extend school learning, for example through additional reading
- encourage pupils as they get older to develop the confidence and self-discipline needed to study on their own, and to prepare them for the requirements of secondary school
- provide the opportunity to use learning resources that may not be available at school
- provide opportunities for parents and pupil to work in partnership and enjoy learning experiences

We hope that children will feel a sense of personal satisfaction in completing tasks and that their efforts will be recognised and praised both at home and at school. Homework tasks should be undertaken to the best of their ability. Children attending peripatetic music lessons are also expected to practise in their own time.

### CURRENT PRACTICE

Each term, parents and carers will receive a home/school communication letter from the class teacher. This will inform them of the curriculum topics which will be covered across the term and the homework requirements. The type and frequency of homework set will change as children get older. By the time children reach Year 6 their homework programme will cover a wide range of tasks and curriculum content, with a regular weekly schedule. This approach will benefit their learning and also ensure that, in relation to homework as much as to other aspects, their transition to Year 7/Secondary school is as smooth as possible.

Homework activities include:

**Reading:** The importance of reading at home cannot be over-emphasised and we hope that children will also read for pleasure in their own time. Parents are asked to sign the reading record to indicate their child has read with an adult a minimum of 4 times a week, for a minimum of 15 minutes each session. This should include hearing a child read out loud as they are developing their skills and asking questions about what they are reading as they become more fluent. Pupils are expected to take responsibility for their own reading books and to return their reading records to school as necessary.

**Mental Maths Practice:** In school we have a daily session to develop the rapid recall of number facts, which will support children across all of their maths work. These include multiplication and division facts, counting on and back and mental arithmetic.

**Spelling:** Each week pupils will be given a list of words to practise from the recommended spelling patterns for their year group. They should use a variety of ways to learn how to spell these words, for example: Look, Cover, Write, Check; dictionary work; making up sentences; crosswords and word-searches with the words; jumbling letters; re-writing words in different colours. We aim to learn the spellings for life and therefore use dictation to test spellings from the current list as well as looking back at previous spelling patterns throughout the year.

**Topic based-activities:** Pupils will be given the opportunity to research topics they are studying in class as they move through the school. This research could be sourced from the local library, the internet or from family members. Pupils will be given a range of ways to record their research, which could include projects, models drawing or writing. At the beginning of each term, the class teacher will produce a menu of topic projects, from which your child can choose the activities that suit his/her interests and learning style.

**Revision:** Older pupils in particular may be given additional materials to revise concepts covered in lessons. This will enable them to prepare for up-coming lessons and assessments, including end of Key Stage 2 formal assessments (SATs).

## **THE TIME TO BE SPENT ON HOMEWORK**

The precise amount of time spent on homework is less important than the quality of the tasks done. Spending too long on a task may actually be detrimental to your child's learning, in particular his/her enjoyment. The school believes that a regular pattern is important, particularly for English and Mathematics. Class Teachers endeavour to establish a familiar routine of when tables and spellings are set and when they are tested. This information will be made clear to parents at the beginning of the academic year. If any child does not understand a task, parents should encourage them to ask their teacher for further guidance. If parents have any concerns about the levels of homework or the content etc., they should discuss this with the child's class teacher.

## **INCLUSION**

Setting the right type and amount of homework for children with special educational needs will need careful consideration by the class teacher and co-ordination with both the SEND Manager and parents. The objectives of homework outlined in this policy should apply equally to pupils with special educational needs. Whilst children with SEND may benefit from special tasks separate from the homework set for other children in the class, it is important that they should do as much in common with other children as possible, therefore reading, Maths practise and spelling homework is tailored to their needs. Homework tasks for children with SEN should:

- give plenty of opportunities for pupils to succeed
- be varied - and not purely written assignments
- be manageable for teachers and parents

## **TIPS FOR SUCCESSFUL HOME-LEARNING**

- Children should be allowed to work at an appropriate pace and in a suitable place
- The homework task should be completed at an appropriate time, when the child is best able to concentrate
- Children may need lots of encouragement, praise and even the company of parents and help for certain tasks
- Acknowledgement should be given to their own interests, therefore work at home should be planned carefully around other interests to avoid clashes
- Homework should not be used as a threat or punishment
- Help, encourage and praise is the key!

**To be reviewed July 2020**