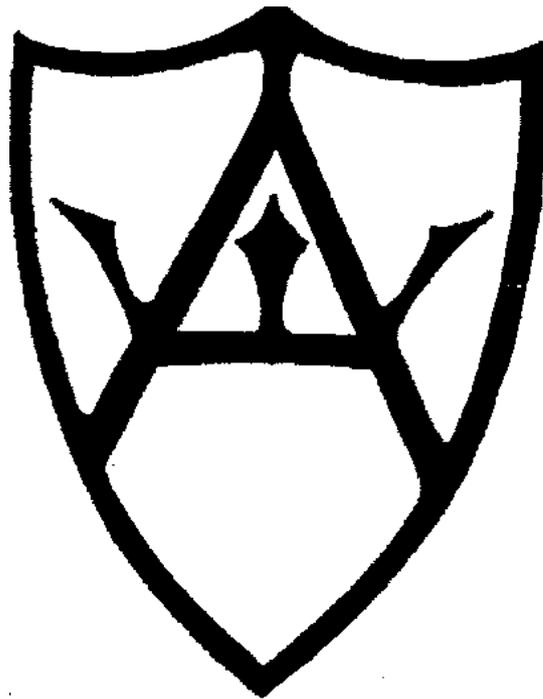


Alfriston School



Home Learning Policy

In consultation with children, parents,
staff & Governors
May 2018

Introduction

At Alfriston home learning is anything that children do outside the school day that contributes to their learning in response to guidance from the school. Home learning encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents to support children's learning. Ultimately, it is our aim to make home learning both purposeful and manageable for children, parents/carers and staff.

As a school we aim to facilitate broad learning experiences for all of our children and we recognise the benefit that parents and teachers working together to support this can bring. Home learning is seen as an important way to establish a successful dialogue between parents, children and teachers. At Alfriston we aim for children to become independent learners; we believe that carefully prepared home learning is one way in which the children can acquire this skill however, we also know the importance of maintaining a healthy balance between home learning and other family 'down' time.

Aims of 'home learning' at Alfriston School:

- To enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development;
- To promote a partnership between home and school in supporting each child's learning;
- To develop the skills of an independent learner and an understanding of individual responsibility;
- To provide additional educational experiences;
- To consolidate and reinforce learning done in school and to allow children to practise skills taught in lessons;
- To maintain a healthy balance between home learning and having sufficient free time to play, relax and develop other interests through outside clubs and groups;
- To ensure parents/carers have a clear understanding of the expectations placed on them, and the pupil, by the school.

Types of 'home learning' at Alfriston Primary School

Parental surveys and forums have demonstrated that it is difficult to meet the expectations of all parents. Some feel that there is 'too much' homework, some say 'too little'.

During the school term time, there will be two types of homework given at Alfriston School – Core Tasks which are compulsory and Home Learning Projects/Show & Tell. No Home Learning Projects will be given during school holiday time but all children are expected to continue ongoing Core Tasks, such as reading, spellings and maths fluency activities, or activities that support transition.

A letter to parents/carers is sent out from each class at the beginning of every term throughout the year, detailing the areas of learning and topic for the term and detailing home learning as a reminder.

We have an 'Open Door Policy' and parents/carers are always welcome to make an appointment with their child's class teacher for clarification about their child's home learning, and we also arrange

specific parent workshops at school for parents to attend in order to keep abreast of the curriculum and pedagogy.

Core Tasks

There are important tasks such as reading, spellings and maths fluency activities (for Yr1 – 6, these are based on the Key Instant Recall Facts, or KIRFs, to enable children to be secure and fluent in by the end of the year) that children should complete each week, these together with reading daily are compulsory (we call these **Core Tasks**).

In addition, the school has a bank of resources (eg. Maths/spelling games and puzzles) and these are available for children and parents/carers to borrow.

Year Group	Core Task	How?	Feedback
Year R	1) Reading with an adult daily. 2) Weekly activities linked to the week's learning, including phonics and maths. 3) Weekly 'Sound Book' activities.	Parent/carer to record in Reading Record Book. Informed via the 'Home Learning' – A4 sheet of paper in child's book bag. Sound activity sheet placed in 'Sound Book' after being taught.	This will form a dialogue between staff and parents/carers to enable them to support their child's reading. Directly to the children and house points awarded. Directly to the children and house points awarded.
Years 1 & 2	1) Reading with an adult daily. 2) Weekly phonics/spellings. 3) Weekly maths activity sheet (based on Key Instant Recall Facts – KIRFs).	Parent/carer to record in Reading Record Book. Sent home in child's home learning folder. Sent home in child's home learning folder.	Monitored by class team, feedback given where necessary. Checked each week by class team and rewarded with house points. Checked each week by class team and rewarded with house points. Children given the opportunity to share their home learning with the rest of the class.
Years 3 & 4	1) Reading daily and sharing their reading with an adult regularly.	Parent/carer to record in Reading Record Book.	Monitored by class team and rewarded with house points and certificates.

	<p>2) Personalised spelling list set at least every fortnight.</p> <p>3) Weekly maths activity sheet (based on Key Instant Recall Facts – KIRFs). Times Tables practise (via the online TT Rockstars school subscription).</p>	<p>Recorded in child’s spelling log.</p> <p>Sent home in child’s home learning folder. TT Rockstars accessible online at all times via individual pupil password.</p>	<p>Checked at least every two weeks in class and rewarded with house points.</p> <p>Progress checked regularly by class team and rewarded with house points. TT Rockstars monitored online by class teacher and child given feedback in class weekly as part of the programme.</p>
<p>Years 5 & 6</p>	<p>1) Reading daily and sharing their reading with an adult regularly.</p> <p>2) Personalised spelling list set at least every fortnight.</p> <p>3) Weekly maths activity sheet (based on Key Instant Recall Facts – KIRFs). Times Tables practise (via the online TT Rockstars school subscription).</p>	<p>Parent/carer or child to record in Reading Record Book.</p> <p>Recorded in child’s spelling log.</p> <p>Sent home in child’s home learning folder. TT Rockstars accessible online at all times via individual pupil password.</p>	<p>Monitored by class team, feedback given where necessary.</p> <p>Checked at least every two weeks by class team and rewarded with house points.</p> <p>Progress checked regularly by class team and rewarded with house points. TT Rockstars monitored online by class teacher and child given feedback in class weekly as part of the programme.</p>

Home Learning Projects/Show & Tell

In Key Stage 2, Home Learning Projects will be set in Terms 1, 3, 4 and 5, for a maximum of 4 weeks, usually based on that term’s learning, for example the Learning Journey. This may be an open-ended task to enable children to personalise their learning. Children will be encouraged to plan and carry out the task with appropriate support from school and to share their progress as the project progresses.

Completed projects will always be shared at school. For example, as a show and tell with the class, in a specific assembly for parents, as a display in the classroom for parents and children or via the school newsletter.

Feedback from the class teacher will be given using the planning and evaluation sheets issued to the children for the project.

Children are encouraged to share any additional information or resources, linked to the termly topic to enhance the learning in class.

In Years 5 & 6, as we prepare children for the **transition to secondary school**, we would expect children to develop their self-discipline and their ability to organise their time. We recognise that parents and children in Years 5 & 6 often feel that they would like more formal home learning activities to prepare themselves for managing homework at secondary school. The class teacher will, therefore, encourage children to complete all Home Learning Projects and, at her discretion, provide further learning opportunities when she believes it would directly support the pupils or the curriculum.

In Key Stage 1, regular **Show & Tell** offers children an opportunity to share any learning they have initiated at home which is linked to that term's topic.

Foundation Stage

Parents are informed of the learning we are completing each week and given activities across the curriculum via a '**Home Learning**' sheet. These are often based on discussion, observation or play. Occasionally larger creative projects are suggested, which will support the children's enjoyment of their learning.

Parents are welcome to come in to the classroom to view their child's learning journey two times a week. Each House 'Colour Group' (Cuckmere House = Blue; Exceat House = Red; Windover House = Green) have the opportunity to '**Show & Tell**' weekly. This supports children's developing speaking and listening skills.

The importance of Home/School partnership

We know that parents will want to support their children:

- by taking an active interest in their child's home learning;
- by encouraging them and praising their efforts;
- by supporting them in particular tasks;
- by enabling them to complete their home learning.

The school will ensure that:

- tasks set are reasonable and matched to the pupils' needs;

- for the Core Tasks, children's efforts are praised and rewarded as appropriate;
- presentations and workshops are provided to assist parents with understanding their child's learning, e.g. Maths calculations, phonics, spelling and reading workshops;
- it is supportive and will listen to parents who ask for help.

Equality Statement

Alfriston School recognises that everyone is different and special owing to varying needs and cultures. We aim to treat all differences positively, recognising that diversity creates a collaborative, creative and understanding school, where everyone is included to do lots of different things and have lots of different experiences.

Written by the children of Alfriston School - December 2017

This is reflected in our Equality Information and Objectives and in our vision to be 'Fair, Friendly, Fulfilling and Fun'.