



Homework Policy

Oliver Goldsmith Primary School

"Inspiring a love of learning."

Date Ratified: September 2023

Date to be reviewed: September 2026



1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 At Oliver Goldsmith we believe parents, carers and other family members can and do make a real difference to children's education. When parents and schools work together, children do better.
- 1.2 We are keen that standards expected in school are maintained at home and that, if possible, children have somewhere quiet, away from distractions, to complete their homework.

2.0 AIMS

- 2.1 To ensure a whole school consistent approach to homework and to make homework manageable for all concerned.
- 2.2 To consolidate and reinforce learning done in school and assist in preparation for future class work, particularly in English and maths.
- 2.3 To enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development.
- 2.4 To help pupils develop the skills of an independent learner.
- 2.5 To encourage skills and attitudes which help children improve their educational performance.
- 2.6 To provide a context for pupil/parent interaction.
- 2.7 To promote a partnership between home and school in supporting every child's learning by enabling parents to have a direct insight into their child's school work.
- 2.8 To enable all aspects of the curriculum to be covered in sufficient depth.
- 2.9 To provide educational experiences not possible in school.
- 2.10 To consolidate and reinforce learning done in school and to allow children to practise skills taught in lessons.
- 2.11 To help children develop good work habits and self-discipline for the future.

3.0 WHAT WILL BE SET & RECOMMENDED TIME ALLOCATION

- 3.1 Homework should never be too onerous nor should it ever create stress within the pupil's family. If parents have any concerns, they should not hesitate to contact the school. Normally, more than one day will be allowed for the completion of a homework task, except where daily practice is to be encouraged e.g. reading, spelling and times tables.
- 3.2 Where homework is set over a school holiday, the task will be shared and a deadline set that enables families to complete tasks either before or after the holidays.



3.3 From Reception and in Years 1-6, homework will be set on a Friday and collected in the following Wednesday. We use Google Classroom to communicate homework tasks with families. Work will then be completed on paper or in a homework book which we will provide. Weekly tasks will include:

- **Reading & Recording** (minimum three times reading each week).
- Spellings – practicing spelling key words. Spellings to be differentiated and tested on a weekly basis as part of a timetabled test.
- **Learning multiplications/times tables through the use of Times table Rock Stars** (Numbots for Y1 pupils).
- One other piece each week which may be either related to English learning (such as comprehension, writing or grammar) or to maths work to consolidate work completed in maths lessons. The class teacher has the discretion to set tasks appropriate to the needs of the children and in relation to the curriculum being covered.
- Projects or tasks related to other subjects may be set at other times over the year but children will be given a minimum time of two weeks to complete such tasks.

3.4 Homework in Reception:

3.4.1 **Learning together** is the emphasis for children in Reception. Learning is mainly Literacy based but the children are given maths activities to do as well. We place a strong emphasis on reading and participating in activities together. It is an ideal time to lay the foundations for continuing work at home.

3.4.2 **Reading & Recording:** Parents will be informed of the phonemes and high frequency words that the children are learning in school. Starting in the autumn term and continuing all year, the main emphasis is on reading at home. This should be done in two ways:

3.4.3 **Adults reading to children:** Parents should encourage children to point to words as they are being read. Discussion about the books is also important.

3.4.4 **Children reading to an adult:** When they are ready to, children will start bringing simple books home to read to an adult. 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.

3.4.5 Letter formation: At the beginning of the child's first term in Reception, the Reception teachers will provide parents with a sheet to support children with letter formation.

3.4.6 Key words and tricky words: Children learn to read key words and tricky words as part of 'Rocket Phonics'. Regularly practicing 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 beneficial to practise writing the words as well as reading them. It would be useful if these words were practised on a regular basis in the summer holiday before year 1, as well as parents continuing to share books with their child.

3.4.7 Weekly homework: From the second part of the autumn term, children will be given homework on a Friday which will be handed in on the following Wednesday. There will be a range of topics from the Foundation Stage curriculum which includes speaking, listening, mathematics and English. The children will also be given a library book which will be changed each week.

3.5 Homework in Key Stage1 (Years 1 & 2):

3.5.1. For children in **Key Stage One** we encourage parents to work together with their child to support them with their homework. The emphasis remains on English and maths.

3.5.2. **Reading & Recording:** Reading on a regular basis is vital when children are in year one and two. 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 they have read. Children should read for a minimum of three times per week for 10-15mins each time. **Please use the reading record provided to write in and sign to show that reading has taken place.**

3.5.3 **High Frequency Words/Spellings:** Children will have daily phonics lessons 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. Spellings linked to the phonics phases are sent home to be learnt.

3.5.4 English: This will be based around what the children will be learning in class. The work could also be based on spellings, punctuation or grammar. They may be asked to read something and answer questions. Sometimes the task will be a piece of writing.

3.5.5 Maths: Homework to support work and concepts being covered in school will be sent home and are designed to be completed with the involvement of parents. **Children learn times tables through Times Table Rock Stars (Numbots for Y1 pupils), this should happen three times a week.**

3.6 Homework in Key Stage 2 (Years 3, 4, 5 & 6):

3.6.1 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. The main focus for homework in Key Stage 2 continues to be English and maths however children will be given more varied tasks in other areas of the curriculum. As your child progresses into the upper years in KS2 (Y5 & Y6) the volume of homework will increase.

3.6.2 Reading & Recording: 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. Children should read for a minimum of three times per week for 20-30mins each time. **Please use the reading record provided to write in and sign to show that reading has taken place.**

3.6.3 English: This will be based around what the children will be learning in class. The work might be based on grammar, punctuation, spellings, comprehension or be a writing task.

3.6.4 Maths: 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.



Children learn times tables through Times Table Rock Stars – this should happen three times a week.

3.6.5. **Other Areas:** Work could be linked to any other curriculum area- Science, Geography, History and so on. It could take many forms- preparing a talk, completing a piece of research or conducting an interview. The nature of this work may be more open ended than in other areas. In addition, there may be occasions when children are asked to finish off work at home which is in addition to the scheduled homework.

4.0 THE ROLE OF THE CLASS TEACHER

- 4.1 To set homework which is interesting and at the right level.
- 4.2 To clearly explain the purpose of the homework to pupils.
- 4.3 To check homework and keep a homework register.

5.0 THE ROLE OF THE PUPIL

- 5.1 To make time to do the homework.
- 5.2 To complete tasks set with as much effort and standard of presentation as classwork.
- 5.3 To return completed homework to the teacher on time.

6.0 THE ROLE OF THE FAMILY

- 6.1 To help children to find a suitable place and time to complete tasks.
- 6.2 To support children with tasks but not to do it for them.
- 6.3 To check that homework has been completed.
- 6.4 To contact the school with any concerns.
- 6.5 To make it clear to their children that they value homework.

7.0 MONITORING AND EVALUATION.

- 7.1 The Class Teacher will be responsible for regularly monitoring homework.
- 7.2 The Leadership Team will monitor the frequency and standard of homework on a regular basis.