



Growing at Meadowside Primary School

Homework Policy September 2019

EQUALITY DUTY

At Meadowside School we want everyone to reach their full potential and to ensure that all members of our community are treated fairly in all situations.

The Equality Act provides us with a framework to support our commitment to valuing diversity, tackling discrimination, promoting equality and fostering good relationships between people

Homework is an important aspect of a child's education. Homework encourages children to realise that learning can take place outside the classroom and it promotes independent learning, thus encouraging children to take greater responsibility for their progress. Homework allows parents, carers and the school to work in partnership to ensure that each child reaches their potential.

Where home learning is effective, it also opens another channel of home-school communication and greater opportunities for home-school partnership, which is a very important tool for promoting children's learning.

AIMS

Homework is encouraged throughout the school. It:

- Promotes home links and parental involvement in their child's education ultimately to promote pupil progress.
- Reinforces skills, which have been taught in school, as well as giving children the opportunity to practise what they have learnt.
- Places an emphasis upon the basic skills of English and Mathematics primarily focused on the development of reading, handwriting, spelling and calculation skills.
- Encourages self-discipline as the children take responsibility for their learning.
- Promotes independent learning.
- Sets standards for life as children become accustomed to working at home, preparing them for secondary school and life beyond.

Reading

The importance of reading at home cannot be over-emphasised and we hope that pupils will read for pleasure in their own time. Reading widely and regularly fuels children's imaginations, develops knowledge and understanding and also models styles of sentence structures and features that children can then use in their own writing.

We expect children to read **daily or at least 3 times a week**. Reading at home should be a pleasurable experience, valued at all times, and is not just confined to the total time spent completing homework. We value parent's involvement and actively encourage parents to support the teaching of reading and to nurture a lifelong love of literature.

Pupils are provided with a school reading book, matched to their ability, which can be taken home to read with a parent/carer or other adult. The 'Reading Diary' will be used to record a child's reading at home as well as any additional homework for that week. A parent should sign it at least 3 times a week. The book will be checked throughout the week and will be signed weekly by the class teacher.

For children learning to decode mainly in Reception and Year 1, please do not be concerned if the books that they bring home appear not to challenge. We want reading at home to be a celebration of what they have learnt rather than introducing new words. New words will firstly be taught at school. Reading with your child is really important as it promotes enjoyment, especially for children who are focusing on decoding when they learn to read or are challenging themselves with texts that are more difficult. It also exposes them to varied vocabulary, author styles and techniques.

Spelling KS1 & 2

Pupils will focus on a selection of spellings taken from the most common words, which appear in children's writing, including a range of both 'exception' words, and those that follow spelling rules. As pupils progress through the school, they will be given additional challenging words to learn, many of which come from the statutory spelling requirements of the National Curriculum. These spellings will be sent home for children to practise with their parents and teachers will test children on these key words.

Mathematics

The learning of key number facts and instant recall of multiplication tables enables pupils to become confident and competent mathematicians. Gaining times table knowledge to 12x alongside corresponding division facts will be promoted at the appropriate level for each pupil.

Balance between completion of homework and relaxation time

As a school, we recognise the importance of family time and the need for children to participate in a range of activities outside school. We consider that the amount of time spent on activities completed at home should not be excessive and should be proportionate to the age of the pupil. If homework is causing challenges at home, then we actively encourage parents/ carers to discuss this with the relevant teachers so this can be resolved together.

Personalising Home Learning

The school is committed to ensuring that all work set for completion at home is appropriate to the needs of the child. Children with special educational needs may occasionally benefit from being given work that is different from that which is given to the rest of the class or group. If this is the case, they are not expected to complete work set for the rest of the class in addition to their individually differentiated work.

Homework/ Learning Expectations and Schedule

Homework is given on a weekly basis across the school but may vary in response to a particular activity such as an educational visit, in these circumstances, the teacher will write an explanatory note in the child's 'Reading Diary'. Children's efforts with their homework will be discussed as part of Parental Consultation Evenings.

EYFS will have reading books and/or activities linked to phonics. There will be suggestions from the class teachers for activities linked to the wider curriculum.

Year group	When Set	Tasks/Activities/Subject Areas. Our expectations are that:
Reception	Please read with your child for 10 minutes each night.	
Year 1	Out on Friday Back on Wednesday	Children will read daily. In addition, children will complete a maths and Spelling Shed task each week. Children should be able to count forward and back in 2, 5 and 10s.
Year 2	Out on Friday Back on Thursday	Children will read daily. In addition, children will complete a maths and Spelling Shed task each week. Children should be able to recall and use multiplication and division facts for the 2, 5 and 10 multiplication tables.
Year 3	Out on Friday Back on Wednesday	Children will read daily. In addition, children will do a Times Table Rock stars and Spelling Shed task each week – this will be accompanied with a grid for parental signature. Children should be able to recall and use multiplication and division facts for the 2, 5, 10, 3, 4 and 8 multiplication tables.
Year 4	Out on Tuesday Back on Tuesday	Children will read daily. In addition, children will do a Times Table Rock stars and Spelling Shed task each week – this will be accompanied with a grid for parental signature. Children should be able to recall and use multiplication and division facts for all multiplication tables up to 12.
Year 5	Out on Friday Back on Friday	Children will read daily. In addition, children will do a Times Table Rock stars and Spelling Shed task each week – this will be accompanied with a grid for parental signature. Children will consolidate their knowledge of all multiplication and division facts up to 12.
Year 6	Out on Friday Back on Wednesday	Children will read daily. In addition, children will do a Times Table Rock stars and Spelling Shed task each week – this will be accompanied with a grid for parental signature. We will also be setting weekly maths and SPAG tasks on SATs Boot camp (after parents' evening 1). Children will consolidate their knowledge of all multiplication and division facts up to 12.

Expectations

It is the school expectation that all children will complete the homework set.

If homework cannot be completed due to issues with internet access then parents are encouraged to inform class teachers. Children will be able to attend homework/spelling shed club at lunchtimes to provide them with the opportunity to complete the work set.