



Summerseat Methodist Primary School

Policy for Homework

The staff adopted the revision to this policy on August, 31st 2010.

Rationale

We believe that there is a great advantage in children continuing their learning beyond the school day. Different learning opportunities set by the school aim to support, reinforce and extend the work that children are engaged in within the classroom. At all stages of their education children benefit from having an interested adult at home who will find time to talk to them about a variety of topics including the work they are doing at school. Homework should provide the opportunity for a child to have quality time with an adult supporting their learning in a positive way.

Aims

Homework should:

- contribute to children's progress;
- help parents/carers to keep in touch with their children's learning at school;
- provide opportunities for parents and children to work together to enjoy learning experiences;
- exploit resources for learning, of all kinds, at home;
- give children the opportunity to practise skills which have been taught at school;
- prepare children for the demands and expectations of secondary school by getting them in the habit of regular work out of school hours.

General Principles

Homework does not just mean completing work sheets and formal written exercises carried out without help from adults. All children need to participate in purposeful, joint activities and tasks with their parents/carers: talking together and enjoying one another's company; having fun together, playing games, reciting rhymes, reading, learning and revising facts; visiting the library or local museums, preparing to give a talk about a hobby or an enthusiasm, finding out about an aspect of a topic being studied at school; carrying out mathematical activities that make use of the home context e.g. weighing ingredients for cooking, estimating the number of potatoes, weighing the rice needed for dinner, helping with the shopping and carrying out simple transactions with money.

It is vital that children spend quality time with their families and, as a school, we do not want homework to impinge on this family time. We also recognise that children engage in other activities outside of school hours and strongly encourage participation in such activities. Therefore, homework will be not be set for completion by the following day or on a Friday for completion by Monday. Neither, as a general rule, will homework be set over school holidays.

Homework will not be set where parents request holidays during term time. Parents will be encouraged to engage in learning activities with their children during holidays e.g. finding out about the area, reading activities, practical maths activities etc.

As children get older learning at home will gradually become more varied and demanding and although the emphasis will still be on parents and children working together on various activities, there will also be opportunities for children to develop the skills of independent learning.

A break down of homework expectations for each year group is given at the end of this policy.

Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of the child:

- to take their books and homework activities home;
- to work at home to the best of their ability;
- to bring their books and homework back to school on time.

It is the responsibility of the parent/carer:

- to make sure that homework is at least attempted;
- to support their child's learning in whatever way they can;
- to ensure that their child has completed the work to the best of their ability and that it is returned to school on time;
- to let the class teacher know if their child experienced any significant difficulties with the work;
- to initial or sign the reading diary to acknowledge when they have read or discussed a book with their child.

It is the responsibility of the teacher:

- to set tasks and activities that are appropriate to the age and ability of the child;
- to ensure that the work is clearly understood;
- to provide suitable guidance to parents where necessary;
- to tell the child when to bring it back;
- to carefully monitor the completed tasks/activities;
- to give the child feedback.

Teachers will respond to homework in a variety of ways, these may include:

- giving recognition and praise for a child's efforts;
- discussion with the child;
- inviting the child to display their work;
- inviting the child to share their work with others;
- marking;
- giving individual feedback.

Monitoring and Evaluation

It is the responsibility of the Head Teacher to monitor the implementation of this policy.

It will be reviewed annually by the teaching staff at the beginning of each academic year.

Frequency and Content of Homework Tasks

Reception	<u>Daily</u>	Reading together, sharing books, rhymes and stories. Learning key words (reading) and phonics. Playing games to practice counting, number names and number facts
Year 1	<u>Daily</u>	Reading together, sharing and talking about books rhymes and stories. Child reading to or with an adult. Adult reading to the child. Playing games to practice and reinforce mainly number facts: adding and subtracting, doubling and halving, counting in twos, fives and tens. Practising reciting number bonds and simple tables to encourage fast recall. Spellings linked to work in the child's "word workout" group.
Year 2	As year 1, plus	
	<u>Fortnightly</u>	Maths activity
Years 3 & 4	<u>Daily</u>	Reading and discussing the content of the book. Spellings linked to work in the child's "word workout" group. Playing games to reinforce number facts, adding and taking away, doubling and halving, times tables with the emphasis on quick recall.
	<u>Weekly</u>	Literacy or maths activity (alternate weeks)
Years 5 & 6	<u>Daily</u>	Reading and discussing the content of the book. Spellings linked to work in the child's "word workout" group. Mental arithmetic / times tables - practicing speed and accuracy.
	<u>Weekly</u>	Literacy activity Maths activity

N.B. In years 5 and 6, the weekly homework activities will be replaced by a longer term, individual project, during the final half term of the year.

N.B. As children get older they may be asked to take unfinished work home to complete.

Homework Timetable

The whole school will follow the same weekly timetable for homework:

Reading - daily

Spellings - set Friday, tested following Friday

Activities - set Friday, handed in Wednesday