



Park Grove School Homework Policy

INTRODUCTION

Park Grove School is firmly committed to raising the attainment of all children, and recognises the significant contribution homework can make to the personal, social and academic success of the individual child. Homework provides an opportunity for parents and children to share purposeful learning opportunities in the supportive atmosphere of the home.

It can, therefore, become a vehicle for developing and enhancing that partnership and raising pupil attainment.

THE BENEFITS OF HOMEWORK

This homework policy aims to bring about benefits for both children and parents.

For children, these include:

- a sense of responsibility for their own learning;
- opportunities for additional learning time;
- improved pupil self-confidence and motivation;
- the development of effective study skills.

For parents, these include:

- sharing in their child's learning;
- showing an interest in their child's education;
- monitoring their child's progress.

THE PURPOSES OF HOMEWORK

- to provide the child with practice in aspects of class work;
- to enable children to become independent learners;
- to encourage children to manage their time;
- to foster a partnership between home and school;
- to provide parents with an opportunity to share in their child's learning;
- to enable parents to be involved and informed about the type of work being undertaken in class.

TYPES OF HOMEWORK

- reading;
- reinforcement of class work;
- games;
- practical activity;
- learning times tables, spellings;
- research topics and investigations;
- preparation for class work;
- preparation for a presentation or individual project.

THE FREQUENCY AND DURATION OF HOMEWORK

We are conscious of the fact that many of our children are involved in activities in the evening and weekends which are valuable to their education and overall development and well-being. Homework letters outlining activities will be sent out each week and children will need support in managing their time to complete the tasks.



If homework is to be effective, it should be a planned and shared activity. We recommend that a short time each night is spent on homework rather than leaving it to one evening. In addition, teachers may provide time over lunchtime if appropriate. The quality and completion of homework is the responsibility of the children and their parents. There will be no consequences for failure to complete homework tasks, however there is an expectation that it will be completed and all teachers will do their best to ensure that children rise to this expectation.

EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE

1. Reading/library books/flash cards to be taken home daily so that children can read with parents each evening. We strongly recommend that children spend 10 minutes a day on reading at home. This can be parents reading to the child as well as children reading aloud. Parents are encouraged to write in the children's reading record books.
2. Weekly phonics activities will be given in phonics homework books.
3. Optional maths challenges will be sent home weekly (from the Spring term of the Reception year).

KEY STAGE ONE

1. Reading/library books/flash cards to be taken home daily so that children can read with parents each evening. We strongly recommend that children spend 10 minutes a day on reading at home. This can be parents reading to the child as well as children reading aloud. Parents are encouraged to write in the children's reading record books.
2. Spelling will be given on a weekly basis, based on spelling patterns and topical words.
3. We send a weekly overview of work being done in class in English, mathematics and topic work, along with suggestions of activities which could be carried out at home to support these.
4. Children would be expected to be confident at the very least, in counting forwards and backwards in ones, twos, fives and tens leading on to these times tables by the time they leave Yr2.
5. The children will have a homework book with 1 piece of English or maths homework per week.

KEY STAGE TWO

1. Reading books can be taken home, or children may read books from home, so that either silent reading or reading aloud to you can take place every night. We strongly recommend that children spend 20 minutes on reading at home each day. The children have a reading record and they should complete one entry each week.
2. Spelling will be given on a weekly basis, based on spelling patterns and topical words. In addition to this a list of additional words will be given to the children to learn over a half term period.
3. Tables - multiplication and division - will be built up in school by use of practical materials. Children will be expected to learn tables as part of their homework and, by Y4, all children should be confident in all tables. Lower KS2 children will focus on a different times table every fortnight. In the Autumn term they will be given a times table booklet to help them learn each times table. Upper KS2 children will consolidate a mixture of times tables and will be assessed through 'club' tests. They will bring a copy of this test home each week to practice.
4. Teachers may set work from the MyMaths website to supplement and support work carried out in class.
5. Twice each half term, an additional piece of homework will include carrying out a task based on the current topic. This will be an extended piece of work, typically lasting 2-3 weeks, and will involve a wide range of activities drawn from the whole curriculum including the preparation of presentations to the class. There will be reminders about this work each week in class and in the weekly homework letter. This work seeks to encourage individuality, independence, family interaction, confidence, speaking, listening, presentation and a broader knowledge of the curriculum based on child's interests.

* Please note: We will not send homework home for the holidays because we believe that children need to rest and enjoy family time.



ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK

Children's homework will be assessed in a variety of ways within the class.

- in EYFS and KS1 homework will be shared as it comes in, and will be displayed within the classroom. In KS2 topic work will be celebrated within class and oral feedback given to pupils. Teachers will let parents know when this is happening. Oral and presentational skills will be discussed and assessed through presentations.
- in Key Stage 2 spellings and tables will form part of weekly class work and will be regularly monitored. There will be a spelling assessment at the end of each half term which will contribute to the assessment of writing.
- in EYFS and Y1/2 teachers and parents/children should comment in Reading Records twice each week. In Y3/4 teachers and parents/children should comment once each week. In Y5/6 teachers and parents should comment once each week, with an additional independent comment from each child.

HOW CAN PARENTS SUPPORT OUR HOMEWORK POLICY?

- by ensuring homework is carried out while your child is alert.
- by trying to provide a calm atmosphere with as few distractions as possible.
- by discussing the work with your child and working along with him/her.
- by checking that the quality and presentation is of an acceptable standard.
- by extending the work when appropriate perhaps by supplying a relevant book, using the internet together or visiting a place of interest connected with the work.
- **ABOVE ALL BY SHOWING INTEREST AND PRAISING GOOD EFFORTS.**

We believe that our homework policy is fair and has a good balance between children improving their skills at home with parental support and children having enough time to rest and play.

The homework policy has taken into account the views from a staff, parent and child homework questionnaire.