

Parklee Primary School

Homework Policy

Context:

In 2018 we changed the way we set homework throughout the school following an in-depth consultation with parents, carers and pupils.

The voice of the parents, carers and pupils asked school to acknowledge that sometimes homework can become quite a battle between children and their adults resulting in conflict at home. Children often appeared to 'put off' homework to the last minute or not complete it at all. Some adults feared that their children may fall behind at school if they did not complete it. Some parents and carers were concerned about not understanding the homework that has been given to the child and feared teaching children incorrect or 'out of date' methods.

It was recognised that Homework is an important part of school life and is part of the home-school agreement set out in the school's vision and values.

We define homework as any activity that pupils undertake outside of school lesson time, either on their own or with the support of family members. At Parklee we have a strong commitment to parental involvement and see homework as one way of developing this partnership.

Why give homework?

- It can inform parents about work going on in class;
- It can further stimulate enthusiasm for learning;
- It takes advantage of the home environment, resources, expertise of adults and the chance for one to one quality time between adult and child.
- It can be a great source for gathering topic information to share with all the children;
- It is a great opportunity to rehearse key skills such as times tables, calculations, spellings, handwriting etc.
- It helps to foster good habits of organisation and self-discipline in preparation for the demands of High School.

Homework at our school

Parklee Primary is not a school at which homework dominates home and school life. We accept that not every activity will capture children and parents' imagination and that weekends can sometimes be busy. We believe that homework should be enjoyable and manageable for all concerned and that if it becomes a chore, burden or source of conflict it ceases to be a constructive aspect of teaching and learning.

We do not specify amounts of time that must be spent on a task, preferring individual children and families to set their own routines. Individual teachers are happy to give advice if necessary.

We hope the children are motivated by positive incentives and by the tasks themselves; children are never punished if they fail to complete the work. However if a teacher feels that an increase in commitment to homework would benefit the child's learning this would be discussed with the child and their parents or carers.

Our routines and expectations

The following priorities were agreed as part of our 2018 consultation:

- All pupils will be expected to read 3 times a week as a minimum standard. Reading will have an extremely high priority throughout school and children will be rewarded for their frequent reading achievement.
- Project work will be set once per year projects. Projects will always be linked to the topics the children are learning in class and there will be open mornings / afternoons when parents can come in to school and look at all the class projects.

Class	Possible Projects – Teachers will confirm these annually.
N	Year A Jungle explorers Year B Master chefs
Rec	Make your own transport vehicle as part of our ‘Tremendous Travel’ unit of work e.g., children will make a car, boat, train, aeroplane, rocket, bike etc.
Red	Year A Castles Year B Great Britain
Orange	Year A The Seaside (researching holidays now and in the past - history links) Year B The Rainforest (researching favourite rainforest animals - geography and science links)
Yellow	Year A Famous People Year B The Environment
Green	Year A Stone Age Year B Anglo Saxons
Blue	Year A Stone Age Year B Anglo Saxons
Indigo	Year A Egyptians Year B Ancient Greece
Violet	Year A Egyptians Year B Space Project
Turquoise	Year A World War II Year B The Americas
Maroon	Year A World War II Year B The Americas

- Reinforcement work in English and Maths can be set for individuals at the teacher’s discretion and in agreement with parents and carers where necessary. The work should always have been explained and discussed in class before coming home; it may be a continuation of classwork, or an activity already familiar to the child.

It is our intention, and good practice, not to send work home that the child cannot already do i.e. parents are not expected to teach new skills.

There should be a clear explanation and reminder from the teacher of what is expected.

We expect children to maintain the same standards for presentation of homework as we set in school i.e. to use their best handwriting and a sharp pencil or blue pen.

Broadly speaking these are the expectations at Parklee:

Nursery – sharing books and engaging with the current class topics

Reception – frequent reading, phonics book and engaging with the current class topics

Year 1 - frequent reading, phonics/ spellings and engaging with the current class topics, My Maths.

Year 2 – frequent reading, phonics/ spellings and engaging with the current class topics, My Maths. In the spring term study books will be encouraged to support children with preparation for their end of KS1 SATs.

Years 3,4,5,6 – frequent reading, weekly times tables and spellings for a weekly test and My Maths

Year 6 – In the spring term study books will be encouraged to support children with preparation for their end of KS2 SATs.

Reading out loud is a very important practice that even children who are independent readers must continue to do. It sharpens focus and improves comprehension, opens opportunities for discussion and develops vocabulary. We encourage children up to the end of Y6 to continue reading out loud in school and to their parents and carers on a frequent basis.

It is our policy not to give homework over the holidays and half term breaks.

Other Online Learning:

We have a number of online learning platforms for the children to access out of school hours for enjoyment and to support learning:

- Bug Club
- Reading Eggs
- Teach my Monster to Read
- Times Tables Rock Stars
- My Maths
- Purple Mash / Mini Mash
- BBC Bitesize
- Ed Shed: Spelling Shed and Maths Shed
- Nessy
- Reading Plus
- Oxford Owl

Making homework a part of the home routine

- Make it a natural part of asking how the children's day was. Even if you know nothing about a particular subject, you can still help just by talking and listening and helping them find their own answers.
- If you do not understand the work they have been given, use the internet or ask the teacher or friends and family to take a look. Once you have an understanding for the work, you may be better placed to support your child.
- Help your children take responsibility for organising and doing their homework. Never forget to praise your child for their hard work.

Creating the right environment for homework

Help your child keep to a routine. Some children prefer to do homework straight after school whereas others prefer to 'unwind' first, and then do homework later. Support your child to decide what is right for them. Try to create a suitable atmosphere where they can complete homework, ideally somewhere with a clear work surface, good lighting and few distractions. Some children like to work with background music on, some children prefer to do homework alone, others with friends or family.

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