

Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Catholic School, a Voluntary Academy



HOMEWORK POLICY 2015-16

This policy was approved by...

staff on:

parents on:

Review date: Autumn 2017 *(or earlier if necessary)*

DfE recommended time allocation for homework 2011

| | | |
|-------------|--------------------|---|
| Years 1 & 2 | 1 hour per week | reading, other literacy work and number work |
| Years 3 & 4 | 1.5 hours per week | literacy & mathematics with occasional assignments in other subjects |
| Years 5 & 6 | 30 minutes per day | regular weekly schedule with continued emphasis on literacy and mathematics but also ranging widely over the curriculum |

Weekly homework timetables

These will be shared with parents during initial parents meetings in the autumn term and updated in termly newsletters

From Y1 onwards a homework book will be provided for each child with guidelines for completing homework.

Reception

Ten minutes or more a day reading

Phonic or word based activities each week

Learning letter sounds

Year 1

Ten minutes or more a day reading

Phonic or word based activities

Mental maths – developing quick recall of facts, e.g. number bonds such as $2 + 8 = 10$, $3 + 7 = 10$, $4 + 6 = 10$ etc linked to personal targets

Year 2

Fifteen minutes or more a day reading

Weekly literacy or maths task / activity

Weekly spellings and times tables

Year 3

Fifteen minutes or more a day reading

Mental maths – developing quick recall of facts, e.g. derive and recall the multiplication and division facts up to the 12 times tables

Weekly literacy or maths task / activity

Weekly spellings

Year 4

Fifteen minutes or more a day reading

Mental maths – developing quick recall of facts, e.g.

multiplication and division facts up to 12 x 12

Weekly literacy or maths task / activity or occasionally RE, science and other topic based tasks

Weekly spellings

Year 5

Twenty minutes or more a day reading

Weekly spellings

Mental maths – developing quick recall of facts, e.g. quick recall of the multiplication and division facts up to 12 x 12, double and halve decimal numbers.

Weekly literacy and maths task

Occasional RE, science and other topic based tasks.

Year 6

Twenty minutes or more a day reading

Weekly spellings

Mental maths – developing quick recall of facts, e.g. use knowledge of place value and multiplication facts to 12 x 12 to derive multiplication and division facts involving decimals, e.g. $0.8 \times 7 = 5.4$.

Weekly literacy and maths task

Occasional RE, science and other topic based tasks.

The Role of Parents and Carers

Parents/carers should make it clear to pupils that they value homework, and support the school in explaining how it can help their learning. In addition the role of the parents and carers is also:

- To support the child in completing homework by monitoring the work and giving help where necessary. Often, particularly with younger children, parents will need to work with their child.
- To ensure the child completes homework to a high standard and hands it in on time.
- To provide the appropriate conditions (a reasonably peaceful, suitable place), for the child to complete the homework.
- To provide the appropriate resources for the child to complete the homework.
- To read with the child on a regular basis and update the reading record.

The Role of the Child

- To ensure they have everything they need to complete homework each week.
- To make sure they understand the tasks that have been set.
- To put in the same level of effort as would be expected of class work.
- To hand the homework in on time.
- To take on board any feedback about homework.

Often asked questions

What happens if my child doesn't complete their homework?

The expectation is that children will complete homework. Teachers keep records of children completing homework. If there are any problems with pupils not completing homework then the homework will be completed during break or lunchtime.

What if a child says they have received no homework?

If the class teacher is ill, homework may not set. This will be very rare. The nature of homework in our school means that there is always ongoing learning which can be completed at home e.g. reading, spellings and number facts (see target sheets).

What if a child says that the homework is too hard?

If you think that your child is struggling with a piece of homework, help them to complete it. Put a brief note into your child's homework book to explain the difficulty. Teachers are always willing to support children who are struggling during lunchtime and breaktime.

What if a child says that the homework is too easy?

For homework, children are often set tasks which are designed to deepen and consolidate their learning that week. Therefore your child may be able to complete the task well, but it allows them to practise and embed knowledge. However, if you feel strongly that the homework set is too easy for your child on a regular basis, please arrange an appointment with your child's class teacher who will be more than happy to discuss the matter with you.

If a child is absent will they receive homework?

If children are absent due to illness we will not send work home. We will assume the child is too ill to work.

Equal Opportunities and Special Needs

All children have equal access and inclusive rights to the curriculum regardless of their gender, race, disability or ability. We plan homework that is differentiated for the performance of all groups and individuals. We also provide a weekly after school

homework club for children with SEND which is managed by our SENCo and a SEN teaching assistant. Parents are encouraged to attend the club with their child.

What type of homework will my child get?

Reception Class – Reading Information.

Every day at school your child will experience a range of activities to help them develop as readers. These will include:

- Whole class shared reading sessions
- Whole class phonic activities
- Small group activities with an adult – based around phonics, reading and writing
- Reading print around the classroom and school
- Imaginative play involving reading, writing and language development
- One-to-one focus activities such as reading, storytelling and phonics

As part of their development as readers your child will soon be starting to bring home reading activities in their reading folders. These activities could include:

- Picture books for storytelling and language development
- Bear words to read
- Word cards for using phonic knowledge
- Books with pictures and words

Please spend time at home encouraging your child with these activities and we really do encourage you to write in your child's reading record each time you do so. This is a great way for us to communicate with each other and therefore ensure your child is making the very best progress they can.

Your child will spend time at school reading with adults. They will read with an adult at least one a week as part of a small group in guided reading and also wherever possible on a one-one basis. Reading books are changed twice a week.

Please bring reading folders every day to support us in planning for your child. This is a system which carries on throughout the school.

If you have any questions about this, please do not hesitate to come and see me.

If you would like to offer to come and spend some time reading with children at school or support by changing books, please let us know.

Homework in Key Stage 1

For children in Key Stage 1 we encourage parents to work together with their child to support them with their homework. The emphasis remains on Literacy skills but we include ways in which children can be supported with important mathematics skills too. Children will also be given regular mathematics homework relating to the website 'My Maths' Each child will be given a login for this and their teacher checks their progress each week.

Reading

Reading on a regular basis, daily would be ideal, is vital when children are in year 1 and 2. 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 will have a reading record which parents / carers should sign or comment in each time they read with the child. **Handwriting practice** is also important. This is linked to **phonics** and will help to consolidate children's reading skills.

Homework linked to phonics

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. Children will bring home sounds and words each week for them to read, write and learn. Parents can help children to learn these by practising them regularly and often. Children may need to practice 'tricky words' several times. Children should also practise their words over the summer holiday.

Mathematics

There are important skills that children should have in place by the time they leave Key Stage 1. Parents can support their child by giving them lots of opportunities to practise these skills throughout Key Stage 1.

- Children should be confident in their 2, 3, 4, 5 and 10 **times tables**. They should be able to say them in order and mixed up.
- Children should be able to **double** each number up to 20.
- Children should be able to **halve** each even number up to 20.
- Children should know their **number bonds** of all numbers up to 20. This means they should know how to make each number, for example 5 can be made by 0+5, 1+4, 2+3, 3+2, 4+1, 5+0
- Children should be able to **tell the time** when it is o'clock, half past, quarter to and quarter past on digital and analogue clocks.
- Children should be confident when using **money**. They should know the names of the coins and they should have experience of adding, taking away and finding change.

Teachers will sometimes send home **key number facts and shape names** to learn and also activities to complete on the 'My Maths' website.

Homework in Key Stage 2

As children get older, homework helps 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 literacy and mathematics. However, children may be given more varied tasks in other areas of the curriculum.

Reading

Children may read to 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. They should be encouraged to read all types of texts including non-fiction. Children in Key Stage 2 are responsible for filling in their reading record / reading journal every day and making sure it is in school, however, it is still a good source of

communication between the class teacher and the parent/carer. Teachers will listen to each child read as part of their weekly guided reading group. They will then record this along with any next steps in their reading record.

Literacy

Literacy homework will be based around children's current class work. The homework will be a mixture of formally recorded tasks and other activities that may include research, speaking and listening or preparation for the next lesson (pre learning).

Maths

This will also usually be based around what the children are 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 will be asked to make sure they know their tables from 2 to 12 as well as their corresponding division facts. They should be able to recite them and answer mixed questions. Again, the homework will be a mixture of: formal activities and other tasks that may include games, puzzles, online activities (My Maths) and other research.

Other Areas.

Work may be linked to other curriculum areas; RE, Science, Geography, History and so on. It could include 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.