

North Wingfield Primary School

Homework Policy



PURPOSE

To provide guidance for staff, parents and governors on the approach to homework in school.

RATIONALE

Homework is an important factor in raising achievement. Homework that is planned across the school has a clear focus and purpose and is a powerful tool that involves parents in their children's education. Homework has a variety of purposes and it is important that these are clarified and understood. We believe homework can play an important role in strengthening the links between home and school and in raising standards in achievement and attainment for pupils.

Purposes of homework are:

- 1 To practise skills learned in school (consolidation).
- 2 To provide an opportunity for learning key words and mathematical facts which can be applied in school (pre-learning).
- 3 To develop independent study skills.
- 4 To promote independence and responsibility.

The type and frequency of homework will vary according to the age and stage of the child.

AGE RELATED BROAD GUIDELINES

Reception Classes. Parents are given a weekly learning letter, which highlights key learning points for the following week and how parents can support their child in being successful. In addition, there will be weekly reading to be shared with parents.

Years 1 and 2. Work includes learning common words for reading and spelling, mathematical and scientific investigations and practice activities. There will be at least three opportunities per week for family reading. In year 2 there will also be occasional independent writing activities and multiplication facts for the 2, 5 and 10 times tables.

Year 3. Learning of commonly used words and other spellings, multiplication facts for the 3, 4 and 6 times tables, maths or science investigations, independent topic research and independent writing activities. Homework will consist of literacy, numeracy and science/topic based activities.

Years 4 and 5. More focus on independent research and developing ideas started in class. There will be at least one independent writing activity per half term. In maths the memorising of times tables to 12 in Y4, more complex maths or science investigations as well as data collection exercises. Homework will consist of literacy, numeracy and science/topic based activities.

Year 6, Much more focus on independent research and developing ideas started in class. There will be at least one independent writing activity per week. In maths the memorising of times tables to 10, more complex maths or science investigations as well as data collection exercises. Homework will consist of literacy, numeracy and science/topic based activities.

Frequency of Homework

- Reception. Weekly family reading and parents learning letter.
- Years 1 and 2. One piece of homework a week in addition to regular reading and mental mathematics practice (10 minutes per night).
- Years 3. One piece of homework per week in addition to regular reading practice plus weekly spellings (10 minutes building to 20 minutes per night by the end of Y3).
- Years 4 and 5. Two pieces of homework per week as well as regular reading practice. In year 5 this may need to be increased in preparation for SATs. (20 minutes building to 30 minutes+ by the end of Y5).
- Year 6. Autumn term - Two pieces of homework per week
Spring term – Three pieces of homework per week
Summer term – Continues, plus boosters etc.
As well as regular reading at home.

A homework book is used in years 2 to 6. This will enable the children to record the work set and provide a vehicle for parents to keep in touch with the work and with progress.

Role of parents

For this policy to succeed in helping to raise children's achievement, parental co-operation and involvement is vital. Parents need to ensure that children have access to a suitable space to complete their homework. Parents working with their children even for just a few minutes will increase the benefit of the activity greatly.

Equally, parents must support the school in ensuring the homework is undertaken. We use the teachers to parents text service to remind parents of their responsibility in this area. Again, it is very encouraging for parents when they receive a text complementing their child's achievements; for example, all spellings correct.

Role of teachers

Children are provided with a homework book (year 2-6).

Class teachers closely monitor completion of homework and use the procedure below. Teachers reward children who consistently return homework in accordance with the behaviour policy.

Homework should be returned by the due date; teachers monitor this and take the following action:

- Missed homework– triggers a text from the child's class teacher.
- No significant improvement over the next 2 weeks – triggers a further text from the key stage leader inviting the parent to a meeting with the class teacher.
- No significant improvement by the end of the term – triggers a meeting with the Head Teacher and Learning Mentor..

Records of texts sent will be placed in the child's file.

Planning for homework

Teachers will include homework in their planning. Termly newsletters will contain information about areas of learning within each year group. Homework will relate to these areas of learning.

CONCLUSION

Homework is a tool that should contribute to the raising of achievement. Work will be set and acknowledged to ensure that children will receive some form of feedback on their efforts. This may be in the form of peer assessment. There is no expectation that the work load of teaching staff is heavily increased through homework. Spelling lists,

multiplication facts and high frequency words will be tested regularly and progress will be discussed at parent consultation meetings.

The effectiveness of this policy is reviewed annually.

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