SHANKLEA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Homework Policy

Policy Control Details			
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Approved for issue by:	Gareth Pearson	Signature	Date
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Shanklea Primary School Homework Policy

Rationale

Parents and teachers of primary school pupils hold very different views on homework for young children. We have taken into account these views and wishes through this policy to outline the consensus of opinion and to give you some guidelines and expectations about homework at this school.

Aims of our homework policy

- To develop an effective partnership between the school and parents or carers
- To consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding, particularly in Literacy and Numeracy
- To extend school learning, of all kinds, into the home.
- To encourage pupils as they get older to develop the confidence and self-discipline needed to study on their own, and preparing them for the requirements of secondary school.

Requirements

The precise amount of time spent on homework is much less important than the quality of tasks undertaken at home. The government recommends daily reading at home and the school believes that reading with your children, by either listening to them or sharing books, is the most important aspect of homework for Primary School pupils.

Any additional homework given by this school will vary according to the age of the child and the nature of topics being studied at the time. It is expected, that as they move through the school towards transfer to secondary school, they will develop time management skills enabling them to complete the homework tasks set each week. Class teachers will monitor if homework is not completed and will let you know if there is a persistent problem. As the children move through Primary School the amount of homework will increase.

Types of homework

Reception and Key Stage 1

Above everything else reading is the most important aspect. To support reading the children will be given sounds and words to learn. To support numeracy they will be expected to practise counting and numbers at home. In addition they may be asked to find out some facts from home to support other studies such as information for a timeline about themselves or they may be asked to look at shapes or numbers in their environment to support Maths.

Homework in Reception:

- Reading to be carried out at home each day.
- Sounds and words to be sent home to be learnt each week.
- Spelling will be set as their knowledge of words develops.
- As their Numeracy skills develop suitable task will be set involving numbers.

Homework in Years 1 and 2

- Reading to be carried out at home each day.
- Spellings to be learnt and tested each week.
- Numeracy facts to be learnt and tested each week.

To prepare the children in Y2 for the move to KS2, the amount and complexity of homework set towards the end of the year will increase. For example the children will be asked to produce a project on nocturnal animals.

Key Stage Two

Reading still remains an important area as the children progress through Key Stage Two. Children who complete the school's reading scheme should be encouraged to read for enjoyment and interest on a regular basis from books of their own choosing. In addition appropriate and regular homework tasks will be set. The amount and frequency of homework will increase as the children move through the Key Stage. This should help the children develop the independent learning skills they will need as they transfer to secondary school.

Each week the children will have a Literacy and Numeracy task to complete. The children will always be given sufficient time to complete homework assignments and it will not normally be set for the next day. Other subject areas will be setting homework tasks on a half-termly basis. For example during one half-term they may have a variety of Geography tasks and in the following half-term they could have a History activity to undertake. The idea is to provide a variety of interesting tasks that encourage the children to develop a range of independent learning skills. The children will always be given sufficient time to complete homework assignments and they will never usually be set for the next day.

Homework in Years 3 and 4 – About 20 minutes per day.

- Daily reading
- Weekly Maths and Literacy task
- Weekly number fact to learn that will be tested at school
- Weekly spellings to learn that will be tested at school.

Homework in Years 5 and 6 – About 20 to 30 minutes per day.

- Regular reading
- Weekly Maths task
- Weekly English Task
- Spellings to learn that will be tested in school
- Additional tasks for some children to support gaps in their learning
- SATs preparation for Y6 children
- Other homework tasks that are felt to be suitable.

Support from school

Each term you will receive an outline of the planned work for your children. The teachers will indicate how you may support your children in this work. Children are given clear instructions for a task to do at home. As the children progress through Y3 they will be given a diary to record homework. Y4, 5 and 6 children will have a comprehensive diary to record homework. This will be checked by staff each week.

Additional support

Occasionally children struggle with some aspect of their learning. If this is the case you may be given some additional support from school about ways in which we can tackle the difficulty together. This may include for a short while additional homework. Many of the children receive group support for additional Literacy and Numeracy. If your child is on this programme they may bring home additional worksheets or tasks to complete. If reading at home becomes difficult talk to the teacher about it and we will look for a solution together.

In addition the older children will have access to the computer suite during the lunch period. This time can be used to carry out research linked to topics they are studying or homework assignment they are busy with.

Holiday homework

Many children are going on holiday during term time and we often have requests for work to take with them. In these cases the school will not be able to provide the work that they will miss whilst away. New work must be introduced by the teacher and is interactive and cannot be given to take home.

Keeping in touch

Every child has a reading comment book; this may also be used for passing on information about homework between home and school, especially for parents who do not have daily contact with school. The older children are provided with a diary that you can use to comment on homework and to communicate with school. The children will be provided with books for the homework tasks they are set. Number Facts and Spelling books will be coming home regularly and you will be able to follow your child's progress.

Shanklea Primary School – Homework information

Class	Reading	English	Maths
Nursery	Story to share each week.		
Reception	Reading every night. Books changed twice per week. Story sack used on a regular basis.	Action words and sounds to learn each week.	Maths games used on a regular basis.
Year 1	Reading every night. Books changed twice per week.	Weekly spellings to learn. Weekly new words in word books.	Number facts books. New facts added regularly.
Year 2	Reading every night. Books changed Monday and Friday.	Spelling test / rule – Every Tuesday.	Number facts to learn each week for Friday test.
Year 3	Reading every night.	20 minute task set on Wednesday for next Tuesday. Spellings set on Friday for test the following Thursday.	20 Minute task set Friday for next Thursday. Number facts to learn each week for test the following Monday.
Year 4	Reading every night.	20 minute task set on Wednesday for the following Tuesday. Spellings set on Friday for test next Thursday.	20 Minute task set Friday for the following Thursday. Number facts to learn each week for test on Friday.
Year 5	Reading – Minimum of twice per week.	Spelling set on a Friday for the following Wednesday. 20 minute English task set on Friday for the following Wednesday.	20 minute Maths task set on Friday for the following Wednesday.
Year 6	Reading – Minimum of twice per week.	20 minute spelling task set each Friday for the following Friday. Class LB - 20 minute English skills task set Thursday for the next Tuesday. Class SBa - 20 minute English skills task set Friday for the next Thursday.	20 minute Maths task set on Thursday for the following Tuesday.

Homework tasks from other subject areas will be set as and when required.