

Homework Policy

Rationale

At St Mary's, we appreciate how vital the links between home and school are, and the need for us to work together to ensure a good education for all children. It is for this reason that we believe that it is important that children have homework set that will support learning within the classroom. This has been supported through research by the EEF (Education Endowment Fund) who have identified strategies (based on research) that improve outcomes for children.

Homework will be carefully planned to extend learning, enhance and reinforce skills and understanding, and allow children to consolidate and improve their skills further.

Homework enables children to practise and extend skills learned in the classroom, and also gives pupils a chance to undertake research and additional learning, as required. Depending on the age of the children it involves parents (and other adults) in the children's work. We believe that homework encourages and improves independent learning.

Through the provision of a variety of activities and approaches to homework we aim to:

- raise standards in all curriculum areas but particularly basic skills in Maths and English
- create a sound partnership between parents and teachers with regard to children's learning
- consolidate/reinforce pupils' skills, knowledge and understanding of work covered in class
- improve pupils' attitudes to learning and independent learning skill

Learning at home

We have a broad definition of homework, with three main types of appropriate home tasks:

- Activities naturally suited to home & family – e.g. interviewing parents, cooking, puzzles & games, reading, watching TV, internet – together
- Free reading & discussing – conversations – enjoyment
- Occasional things that crop up: practising for something, projects, unfinished work

Early Years Foundation Stage	Children have two books to take home to read and share with their family – a phonics book and a reading for pleasure story book- and these are changed weekly. They will also be given letter sounds to practise, so parents can support their learning at home. These will be sent home in a book every day with the sound learnt in class so that children can practise their writing and identifying the sound. Tricky words are shared in a book with ideas on how best to support at home Maths learning steps are also shared, with ideas on how to best to help. On occasion they may be asked to find things out related to school topic work, or to bring in items of interest.
Year 1	Children have two books to take home to read and share with their family – a phonics book and a Reading for Pleasure story book- these are changed weekly. Tricky words to learn and spellings to practise will be sent home in a book so parents can support learning at home. Children will also be given a book in which to record learning completed on their termly Maths KIRF (Key Instant Recall Facts). On occasion they may be asked to find things out related to school topic work, or to bring in items of interest.
Year 2	Children have two books to take home to read and share with their family – a phonics book or an Accelerated Reader book which is at their level and a reading for pleasure

	story book- these are changed weekly. They will also be given a book in which to record learning completed on their termly Maths KIRF (Key Instant Recall Facts), tricky words to learn and spellings to practise. On occasion they may be asked to find things out related to school topic work, or to bring in items of interest.
Years 3 and 4	Children will continue to take home books to read from Accelerated Reader which will be at their level of comprehension, and parents are asked to continue using the reading record book to sign when they have listened to their child read. Children will be given weekly spellings to practise patterns learnt in class as well as times tables to learn either using Time Table Rockstars online, or printed sheets. Each week a piece of English or KIRF related Maths will be given.
Years 5 and 6	Children will continue to take home books to read from Accelerated Reader, many now enjoying reading these to themselves. Parents should now encourage their child to talk about what they are reading. Children will be given weekly spellings to practise spelling patterns learnt in class. Times tables may still be set to reinforce learning (either Times Table Rockstars online or printed sheets). Each week a piece of English and Maths learning will be set relating to what has been taught in class. They may also bring home class work that they need to complete. From Term 3, Year 6 will have homework tasks in preparation for end of Key Stage 2 SATs and these will be set from revision books.

Parents are asked to sign their child's reading record book each time they read or work together, and encouraged to add appropriate comments and ensure that all resources are brought in to school each day.

Open Ended Homework

This is project work undertaken in children's own time, based on school or class topics. It can be very creative and take the form of any media: art, dance, drama, fact file, poetry, PowerPoint, story etc. These projects will be set across Key Stage 2 – this allows pupils to develop their independence in their learning. The title of the topic-related open-ended homework will be given to pupils before the holidays and work will be celebrated in class, assemblies and throughout the school during the following term.

Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND)

If children are part of an intervention programme, they may be set small tasks as part of the structured programme instead of other class tasks such as keywords or spelling.

If the class teacher thinks it is required, extra learning support tasks may be given, according to an individual's needs, e.g. handwriting practice, basic number work in Maths etc.

Feedback

We recognise that pupils benefit from feedback on their homework. Homework may not be formal paper exercises, requiring formal marking. Therefore, much of the feedback may be verbal from the teacher to the child: the format and timing of the feedback depending on the nature of the homework and when it is assessed by the teacher. With Key Stage 2 children, teachers will check that homework has been completed, and, depending on the task, children may "class mark" or "self-mark" their homework under the direction of the teacher or teaching assistant and would always be followed by general feedback and celebrations with the class.

Rewards

A variety of rewards will be given to celebrate the learning completed by children. These will include:

- praise from teachers and other adults at school
- sharing learning in class
- Dojo points and stickers
- The learning pupils' carry out at home may also be celebrated in 'Achievers Assemblies'.

Support and sanctions

We understand that children may not have access to a quiet space for home learning so a weekly homework club will be offered across Key Stage 2.

If children are not completing their homework then the teacher will have structured conversations with the child and parent about how best to support. In Key Stage 2, children will be invited to a weekly homework club where they will have support to complete it.

[Reviewed by staff 19/10/22]