



## Homework Policy

**Policy in place:** July 2013

**Policy updated:** Sept 2018

**Review date:** Sept 2021

### Philosophy and Rationale

We believe that children learn best when parents, the school and children work together in partnership. Providing opportunities for extending learning out of school supports the ethos of our curriculum at Endon Hall Primary & Nursery School, providing valuable opportunities to reinforce and link learning more widely across school and home life. Furthermore, it can also take advantage of the resource of home as a valuable source of learning.

### Aims of the policy:

We aim to:

- Support children's learning, by reinforcing and applying skills learned in class
- Encourage independent and self-motivated learning and research skills
- Encourage children to develop personal organisation skills
- Take account of the needs of the individual child
- Support parents in getting involved in their child's learning
- Make homework manageable, meaningful and enjoyable for parents, teachers and children
- Be consistent in our approach; both regarding the content, expectations for completion and marking

### Our approach and expectations:

From Year 1 upwards homework:

- Will focus on the core skills of reading, spelling and times tables.
- Is differentiated as far as reasonably possible to meet the needs of children as closely as is practical, containing different tasks appropriate to ability.
- Will be given out on Fridays and expected to be completed and returned by the following Wednesday.
- Is to be completed in a clearly-labelled exercise book\*  
\* It is the parent/child's responsibility to ensure that the work is either done in the book or, if it is done on a prepared sheet, that the sheet is stuck in the book, unless otherwise stated by the class teacher.
- Is marked using the tick symbols within the Marking Policy and including basic feedback where appropriate.
- Should take a minimum of 30 minutes and a maximum of 1 hour, depending on the child and/or the task given.
- Is explained in detail to children prior to it being issued, including clear instructions about what is required.

Information regarding the homework is detailed on the weekly 'Brain Builder' activity sheet and will usually include two activities focussing on core skills:

- A set of spellings to learn that the children will be 'tested' on in school. In KS1 a weekly spelling sheet is sent home; in KS2, it is fortnightly.
- A times tables activity to help the children practise the times tables relevant for their year group. By the end of Y4 children are expected to be able to 'recall multiplication and division facts for multiplication tables up to 12 x 12' – children in Years 4, 5 and 6 will be sent activities which help them to practise and increase their fluency with all of their tables.

Where necessary, other activities may be set instead of/alongside the above.

Homework may also include:

- Another piece of work linking to the topic or focus in class (for example History or Science, Pirates or Outer Space) which may be practical, involve direct parental support and may require a photograph, comment, or observations to be recorded within the homework book.

More informal homework may be set from time to time where children, for example, may be asked to think about ideas for a story, look for pictures to support a topic, find out information from an encyclopedia or atlas etc.

Children involved in intervention programmes or support activities may also be set small tasks to complete by the member of staff working with them. Children accessing the Better Reading intervention programme will have specific activities to complete at home, to support the programme as it is delivered in school.

At Endon Hall Primary & Nursery School we recognise the value of the many activities that our children are involved in after school and at weekends, through family activities or membership of clubs and organisations. We would not want any homework to cut across these activities as they play such an important part in the children's development. By allowing the weekend and half the week for children to complete homework, we ensure sufficient time is given to complete tasks to avoid conflicts.

### **Homework in Foundation Stage (Reception):**

In Reception, an A4 'Brain Builder' book is used and homework is detailed on the 'Brain builder' activity sheet, following a very similar approach to that detailed above. It will be given out on Fridays and expected to be completed and returned by the following Wednesday.

The 'Brain builder' activity sheets contain activities that link to the areas of learning within the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum and more detail is provided to explain how the activity links with learning being carried out in school.

Parents are required to make a note regarding how their child accessed the activity and, where applicable, report any learning opportunities the child is undertaking at home that link to learning in school. This is part of the school's approach to understanding and assessing children's learning and development through observations made in school and at home.

In Reading, the children take home a scheme reading book each week. There is an expectation that this is read and discussed (including discussing predictions; main events; plot; characters – feelings, appearance, behaviour; vocabulary meaning/choices; children's opinions of the text/characters/events etc) with a parent three times a week and comments recorded in the child's reading diary. In addition to this, a weekly library book is also sent home for the children to share with a parent.

In Reception, ticks or stickers are utilised to mark homework, as a visual incentive for children.

### **Homework in Year 6:**

In Year 6, in preparation for their transition to secondary school and to help them prepare for SATs, extra homework may be set as part of the 'Brain Builder' activity. The amount of time given to completing homework will increase.

### **Reading homework**

Children learn to read best when they can be heard and can share their reading regularly. Listening to an adult read will also support their development. All children should read for a minimum of 10 minutes a day and, ideally, read to an adult every day. A student who reads for 20 minutes per day throughout the school year will read for 3,600 minutes in total and read 1,800,000 words. In comparison, a child who reads for 5 minutes per day will read 282,000 words and a student who reads for 1 minute per day will read only 8,000 words per year.

Children must use a Reading Log/Diary to note their reading throughout the week. This may be a specific Reading Log or simply an exercise book, which must be completed by parents, including dates when shared reading has taken place at home and regular (at least weekly) comments regarding how the child accessed, discussed and understood the book. Parents/carers must sign the log and children must bring it in every day in their book bag with their reading book.

Teachers check Reading Logs at least weekly, during Guided Reading sessions, to ensure children are selecting appropriate texts and reading regularly at home. Teachers do not record in the Reading Log as group records detailing the focus for reading and the assessment of children's reading are kept.

Children become 'free readers' and are given independent choice of texts from school or home when they can confidently read chapter books of more than 150 pages. Teachers decide when a child is ready to become a free reader. Children who are 'free readers' should continue to read regularly, sometimes independently, but also with a parent (including discussing predictions; main events; plot; characters – feelings, appearance, behaviour; vocabulary meaning/choices; children's opinions of the text/characters/events etc).

## **'Book Bingo'**

Book Bingo forms part of children's reading homework and is aimed at encouraging children to read more widely and to engage in more depth in the texts they are reading. Book Bingo sheets for each year group will be stuck in the front of the child's homework book. Children and parents use the sheet to choose appropriate texts to read. Once read, a task/activity should be selected and completed in the child's homework book. Examples include writing a character description or book review, writing an alternative ending etc. At least one task/activity should be completed per half term. Teachers will share the Book Bingo tasks that have been completed with children during reading sessions.

### Roles and Responsibilities:

For homework to be effective and meaningful there needs to be a partnership between home and school:

- Parents must be aware of what is expected of them
- Children should know what is required of them
- School should act as the catalyst by providing the necessary information

### **Role of the Parent:**

- hear your child(ren) read every day (as little as 10 minutes will be beneficial)
- give support where necessary (going to the library, obtaining books/videos etc.)
- provide a reasonably peaceful, suitable place\* in which to do the homework  
\*Older children may be left alone but, more often, younger children may need to work with an adult
- make it clear to your child(ren) that you value homework
- support by ensuring your child(ren) completes and hands in their homework, on time
- encourage and praise your child(ren), become involved, talk to them about their learning and listen to what they tell you
- encourage your child(ren) to practise and learn their times tables, and their weekly/fortnightly spellings

It would also be useful to use the information sent home termly in the topic overview sheets to broaden your child(ren)'s experiences and if you have access to the internet, to help your child(ren) explore the subjects they are learning at school.

To aid your child's transition into the next year group, please continue to hear your child read and revise their times tables and spellings over the school holidays.

### **Role of the School:**

- regularly set and mark homework
- keep a record of a child's homework, including pieces that are late or have not been completed
- keep parents informed about the quality and standard of homework and any concerns that they may have
- summarise to parents at termly reporting points the success rate in relation to homework being completed and handed in on time
- provide a homework book with space for children to keep notes about homework (if they wish), for parents/staff to use for reciprocal communications, to store their Brain Builder sheet and in which to complete their homework task/s

### **Role of the child:**

- listen to the explanation of the homework task/s
- complete the weekly homework that is set
- present the homework neatly
- hand the homework in on time each week

## Incomplete homework

Homework is an important part of a child's learning and needs to be considered as such by all parties.

Class teachers will keep track of returned homework (including half termly Book Bingo tasks) and any child whose homework has not been handed in by Wednesday morning will be instructed to hand it in by Thursday morning, when it will be marked as late. If the child fails to bring their homework in on Thursday morning then it will be marked as incomplete and the child will be required to stay in on Thursday lunch time to complete it.

Parents will be informed (using a letter attached to the subsequent 'Brain Builder', see Appendix 1) if their child has failed to complete their homework or has handed it in late. In instances where homework is regularly not completed and returned in line with the Homework Policy, the class teacher will discuss why this is the case with the child and parent and put strategies in place to ensure that homework is completed.

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A note home to mention...

- Your child's homework was late last week as it was handed in on \_\_\_\_\_, not Wednesday.
- Your child did not complete and/or hand in their homework last week.

As a result...

- Your child handed it in on Thursday morning and a late mark was recorded.
- Your child did not hand it in on Thursday morning and stayed in at lunch time to complete it.

Homework is an important part of a child's learning and needs to be considered as such by all parties. Please ensure that your child completes their homework on time and hands it in by Wednesday morning each week.

Thank you for your support.

Kind Regards,

Endon Hall staff team

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