



# Home Learning Policy

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September 2019

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## Introduction:

This guidance is to enable and support learning at home. We value all of the enthusiastic and supportive guidance parents give to their children at home and we want to assist with this to ensure all children meet their potential.

## Aims:

- To ensure set work is consistent across the school and in line with age related expectations
- To help children take ownership of their own learning.
- To develop children's excitement and passion for their learning.
- To aid parents in supporting their children at home and have an understanding of how it fits in with classroom learning.

## Fundamental principles:

The fundamental principles which underpin the home learning policy are:

- A firm understanding that learning continues beyond the school.
- That learning and understanding are deepened through rich, varied experiences.
- That opportunities to repeat, explain and analyse knowledge helps it to 'stick'.
- That learners should be creative in their approach.
- Reading regularly should be part of a child's routine.
- Basic maths skills, such as multiplication tables and number facts should be regularly practiced.
- Spelling patterns and key words should be regularly practiced, preferably in the context of sentence (when they are ready to do this).
- An increase in challenge with age and consistency of practice across the school.
- Children should take responsibility for their learning from an early age.
- Opportunities for 'over learning' by older children are exploited by teaching staff.

## Basic routines:

- Reading regularly, 5 times a week, either being heard read or reading independently.
- Weekly Maths home learning (mental or written depending on year group).
- Phonics activities for learners in Reception.
- Weekly spelling/phonetic patterns with related words alongside some key words for children to practice using in sentences. (Years 1-6).
- Half termly Creative Home Learning where the children chose their own activities to support The Fielding Learning Challenge Curriculum (Years 1-6).

- Home Learning will be set on a Thursday and expected to be completed by Tuesday for Years 5 and 6 (identified activities from CGP activity book for grammar and maths).
- Teachers will regularly check online learning to ensure children are using the activities.
- Reading books and reading records for all year groups need to be brought in on a daily basis.
- Spelling log books should be brought into school on a daily basis.

## **Reading:**

The pupils are encouraged to read regularly for both their own development and also for enjoyment. The frequency that books are taken home from school varies with age:

- Nursery, parents will be able to choose a book twice a week to read and share with their child at home.
- Reception, children will take home 2 books a week. One levelled book and one choice book that can be read to them.
- Years 1 & 2, children will take home 1 -2 books per week depending on length of book.
- Years 3 -6, children independently choose a new home book from their set level in their class. These are to be bought in daily and changed when completed.
- Reading records for years 1-6 should be bought in daily so these can be checked in class once a week, possibly during Guided Reading. These will be signed by the child's class teacher (initials).

## **Reading Records:**

Every child from Reception to Year 6 will have a reading record which they either fill it in or an adult does when they are reading. This will enable us to see how much reading is being done at home. Each entry will need the date, the book being read, how much was read and any comments about how they got on.

Children and parents may reference the 40 recommended reading books listed in children's reading records. These are designed to guide parents and carers to age-appropriate and suitably challenging books for the average reader.

Confident readers may read alone or to an adult and less confident readers should aloud. These are to be bought in daily and teachers will check and sign reading records on a weekly basis to ensure children are reading regularly.

Guidance on filling these in:

<http://www.fieldingprimary.com/news/detail/home-learning-and-reading-records/>

## **Early Years:**

During Early Years, we try to encourage the children to enjoy their learning. In Reception, we regularly set Phonics (letters and sounds) practice and have an Early Years newsletter that has some suggestions for how you can support your child at home. You will also be able to add any learning you have done with them on their online journals.

In Nursery, Phonics resources begin to be sent home during the Spring Term.

## **Key Stage 1 and 2 (Years 1-6)**

### **Maths:**

In Years 1 to Year 6 children will use the online learning platform 'Times Table Rockstars' to practise their multiplication bonds. Teachers will set appropriately challenging times tables

questions according to National Curriculum expectations and individual's ability. Teachers will periodically check the online platform to identify children who use the programme particularly well those who access it less frequently. Children's times tables knowledge will be tested weekly during the Fielding Times Table Challenge.

### **Multiplication Tables:**

It is the National Curriculum expectation that all children will know a range of multiplication tables and facts (at least up to 12x12) by the end of Year 4. To support this, children will have weekly tracking sheets (available on the school website) for them to practice multiplication and division facts. These cover 21 levels and get increasingly difficult. The practise children do at home is in preparation for a timed test in class.

### **Spellings:**

In Years 1- 6 weekly spelling patterns with example words that follow these patterns will be sent home. It is proven that the most successful way to learn spellings of more complex words is to use them in the correct context to help children remember how to use them. It's not effective to simply get the children to repeatedly copy out the words just to prepare for a test. Children should practice their spellings in different ways (spelling fun recommendations) until they are ready to put them into sentences. Children's' understanding of the meaning and spelling of these words or of the phonic pattern will be checked through a dictated passage on a weekly basis.

### **Years 5 and 6 Maths Home Learning:**

To further support children's progress in the Upper Phase, and provide an opportunity for consolidation and over-learning of skills, a short weekly maths task will be set. This will build on skills taught during the previous week. Children and parents/carers are responsible for marking this learning using the answer pages at the end of the book. Teachers will check weekly to ensure set tasks are completed to a high standard and identify any children who may require further support. This structured way of learning at home provides a soft transition period before High School.

### **Years 5 and 6 Grammar Homework:**

To help support the older children's Grammar learning they will have a short weekly Grammar task where they will be building on/practicing skills taught in class, using a similar routine to the maths learning described above.

### **Creative Home Learning:**

To encourage children to take responsibility for their own learning and to develop excitement about a range of subjects, they will have half termly Creative Home Learning. This will be introduced when children start their new Fielding Learning Challenge Curriculum topic, as the tasks should support these by giving children opportunities to learn new knowledge and practice new and developing skills. They will be given a set of possible tasks (including one free choice activity), which are described as larger or smaller in terms of hours or effort used to complete them. We are encouraging the children to do at least 1 longer activity or 3 short ones over the half term but they can complete more if they wish or are inspired to. The children can bring these in whenever they are completed and they will be shared and celebrated during a year group Creative Home Learning Show Case. A selection of pieces will be put on display in shared year group spaces, on displays or in the Key Stage 2 display cabinets.

The Creative Home Learning should not only develop children's enthusiasm for their learning but should also give them deeper background knowledge that will support class learning.

## **Holiday homework:**

We will not set homework over school holidays. Children could continue to independently read and log this in their Reading Record. Times Table Rockstars will continue to be accessible.

The only exception to this is Year 6 will have revision based tasks over the Easter holidays.

## **Marking:**

Home learning is meant to help children engage with and take responsibility for their own learning and enable them to begin to identify their own mistakes. Therefore, Spelling, grammar and punctuation activities, as well as Maths in workbooks should be marked at home to provide instant, diagnostic feedback. Answers are provided at the back of the GCP booklets.

Creative Home Learning will be shared amongst the children's peers and they will have the opportunity to receive peer and teacher written feedback as well as completing some self-assessment.

## **Home learning that is not being completed:**

Parents are encouraged to tell the class teacher if a child is unable or unwilling to complete Home Learning tasks independently, as they might be able to offer you further support on how to do it. Our Parent Support Advisors also offer some homework clubs in the computing rooms where you can support your children in a friendly and hardworking atmosphere. If you would like to attend any of these sessions, please speak to your child's class teacher.

Teachers will discuss any concerns about Home Learning tasks initially with children and then parents in order to find out the reasons behind incomplete tasks. Overall the responsibility for ensuring children are doing their home learning rests with parents but teachers will offer support if needed.