

Coppermill Primary School



Homework Policy

Ratified by the Curriculum and Achievement Committee on:

21 January 2015

To be reviewed: Every two years

Next review: Summer 2017

Introduction

Homework provides opportunities for parents to be aware of their child's learning and builds stronger links between home and school. Every effort will be made to ensure that Homework set is appropriate for individual children and does not demand too much or too little from children and their parents.

Aims

- To consolidate and reinforce children's previous learning
- To support children in practising the skills being developed in school
- To extend children's understanding of curriculum areas
- To promote links between home and school
- To encourage parents to be part of their child's learning
- To promote and develop children's independence, self-management and organisational skills

Foundation Stage

Children are introduced to the idea of bringing things to and from school. This will begin with reading books and progress to tasks in Reception.

Nursery

Support children's learning through:

- Looking at books selected by children with their parent/carer to be shared at home and changed regularly
- Ideas given by staff for parents to try at home to support learning of counting rhymes, nursery rhymes and initial sounds.

Reception

Homework is given out:

- Graded book banded reading books and non-graded reading books to share at home, changed on a weekly basis.
- Key words will be shared with parents at different points throughout the year.
- From the Spring term, children will be given Homework projects, to work on with their parents, linked to the unit that is the focus for the term. They can present their projects to the class in the final week of each half term. There will be a strong emphasis on questions and discussions.

Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2

Homework will be handed out each Friday and is due in on the following Wednesday. These are the expectations:

- Mental Maths Homework using 'Maths Express' based on the child's ability - these are expected in approximately every 3 weeks.

- Weekly Maths Homework using mymaths.co.uk or educationcity.co.uk. Children have individual log ins so they can do their tasks at home. Children may also receive Maths Homework in the form of worksheets.
- Weekly spellings to be tested in class.
- Daily reading at their ability level to be recorded in their Reading Record books. In Key Stage 1, children should read aloud to their parents or carers and discuss the storyline. By Year 3 many pupils will enjoy reading by themselves. However it is important that children still sometimes read out loud to their parents and discuss the storyline, as this is the best way of checking that children understand what they are reading and that they are pronouncing words correctly.
- Writing through Homework projects linked to the unit that will be the focus for the term. They can present their projects to the class in the final week of each half term. Examples of Homework might include: preparing for a presentation, researching a project, finding out information, designing and making or investigating.

Additional Homework may be set where children need extra practice or support. A weekly Homework club will be run to support children in their Homework requirements.

Setting Homework at the appropriate level

Coppermill Primary School recognises that all children have individual learning needs, come from a variety of cultural and ethnic backgrounds and may require Homework to be set that supports these needs directly.

Homework tasks are often differentiated to meet individual needs. For example, pupils may be given different reading, spelling and maths Homework. A variety of Homework tasks will be set throughout the year to ensure that all children will have an opportunity to get the most out of the activity. This will encourage them to feel they have achieved something and become more confident in their abilities. Teachers will also consider the circumstances of children when considering resources needed to satisfactorily complete any task set.

Recording Homework

- In Foundation Stage, KS1 and KS2 all children will be provided with a reading record book in which adults can note pupil progress in reading. **Parents should sign each comment/entry to confirm that the child has completed the work.**
- Teachers will set all Homework in KS1 and KS2 and decide upon the content that is applicable for the themes/areas being covered in school.
- In KS2, Homework task information is generally provided through guidance and instruction sheets produced by teachers.

Parents

- Parents will need to support their children to understand any written instructions given in order for the Homework to be completed.

- Parents are asked to use our school library and encourage their children to join the local library and borrow books regularly. Parents are also encouraged to record any comments on reading in the Reading Record book.
- It is expected that, up to Year 4, parents will work with and support children when they are doing their Homework. However parents are asked not to do their children's work for them, but to support them when they need help.
- From Year 5 onwards, children will increasingly be expected to do their Homework on their own. This will help them prepare for the demands of secondary education. They will from time to time still need some support and guidance. Parents can still record any comments regarding their child's reading.

Teaching Staff

Teaching staff, for their part, will:

- Praise good effort
- Monitor the amount of work being given so that it does not become too burdensome
- Make sure that the work given is within the capabilities of the child
- Make sure the Homework is discussed prior to being given out
- Acknowledge Homework with a certificate or signature
- Discuss with parents any problems that may arise