

Definition

The term 'homework' is to be interpreted as 'further development of the whole child' not merely an extension of work done in school. We recognise and value any activities that children pursue outside of school; Swimming, Brownies, Beavers, Dance, Gym, tasks from school, etc. and these will be celebrated in school through Praise Assemblies and visits to the Headteacher.

Rationale

If we are to recognise and value the importance of homework set by school, it is important that there is a regular programme so that everyone - teachers, children and parents - knows what to expect each week. The intention of this policy is to give that clear guidance.

At St Mary's we aim to extend, reinforce and encourage individuals to explore new opportunities so that each may 'achieve their potential' in line with our Mission Statement. The main focus of the Homework from school will be on English and Maths. The following table indicates the homework set by the school that children in each year group; with their parents encouragement and support, will be expected to do each week:

Key Stage 1 (Teachers may deviate from this table depending on the cohort or specific circumstances such as themed weeks)

| Year | Minimum Recommended time per week for school set homework. | Task | Frequency |
|-----------|--|--|---|
| Reception | 1 hour | Reading (to include letter/number formation initial sound practice and flashcards) An activity linked to EYFS curriculum. | Daily (school book or own choice) Weekly |
| Year 1 | 1 hour | Reading Phonics/ Spellings Number e.g. a game or worksheet. Occasional Project Work | Daily Given 1 per wk Given 1 per wk |
| Year 2 | 1 hour | Reading Spellings English & Maths e.g. a game, worksheet or times tables Occasional Project Work. | Daily Given 1 per wk Given 1 per wk |

Key Stage 2 (Teachers may deviate from this table depending on the cohort or specific circumstances such as themed weeks)

| Year | Recommended time/week | Task | Frequency |
|--------|-----------------------|---|--|
| Year 3 | 1.5 hours | Reading Spellings English & Maths Times table activity RE (follow up to sacramental preparation from school or Parish) Occasional Project Work | Daily Given 1 per wk Given 1 per wk Given 1 per wk When appropriate |
| Year 4 | 1.5 hours | Reading Spellings English & Maths task Times table activity. Occasional Project Work. | Daily Given 1 per wk Given 1 per wk Daily |
| Year 5 | 2 hours | Reading Spellings Times table activity Maths & English task Occasional Project Work Practise Musical Instrument | Daily Given 1 per wk Given 1 per wk Given 1 per wk As directed by Love Music Trust |
| Year 6 | 2 hours | Reading Spellings Maths & English task Times table activity Occasional Project Work | Daily Given 1 per wk Given 1 per wk Given 1 per wk |

In each case, at both Key Stages daily reading should be carried out a minimum of 4 times a week and recorded in the Home/School book.

In addition, children may be given work to support their individual areas of need at certain times.

Parents and children should plan together to spread the weekly recommendation over the week.

In addition to this, parents are informed at the start of each term of the children's curriculum coverage and parents are encouraged to further develop the children's interest in these areas, in order to consolidate the children's learning in school. Activities may be accessed on the relevant Class page on the school website.

Children are encouraged and praised for their achievements, enabling them to develop a sense of value in their own pursuits and school directed tasks.

Parents

Homework is one way that parents can become more involved with their children and able to spend quality time with them. We aim to make parents aware of why particular tasks may be set and would encourage parents to work with their children on these tasks. This will enable parents to take an active interest in their children's own pursuits and so reflect the commitment made in relation to the Home/School Agreement. 'Homework' is most beneficial to children when parents, children and school work in partnership and in order to encourage this we would ask that parents:

- provide a reasonably comfortable, suitable place in which children can do their homework.
- make it clear to children that they value homework and support the school in explaining how it can help their learning.
- most importantly, that they encourage their children and praise them when they have completed homework.
- sign reading diaries to show that they have shared the task with their child.

CONCLUSION

Tasks will be either set online or sent home from school throughout a child's primary years but this is not a medium to 'teach' new concepts, but rather to enhance a child's learning. With this in mind, we are conscious that there are many other activities in the community providing many learning opportunities. Homework need not, and should not, get in the way of other activities and children should be encouraged by parents and school alike, to make full use of them.

Review and revised September 2024