

St Matthew's High Brooms CE Primary School

Powder Mill Lane
Tunbridge Wells
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Homework Policy

Headteacher: Mrs Stephanie Hayward
Chair of Governors: Mrs Karen Stevenson

Ratified: July 2018
Next Review: July 2021

Policy written by: Carolyn Pollard

*Distinctive Christian values-
Honesty, Kindness, Respect, Responsibility*

This policy was written after consultation with pupils, parents and staff.

Principles

We define homework as any activity that pupils undertake outside of school lesson time, either on their own or with the support of family members. We recognise the importance of parents sharing their children's learning and therefore will provide homework opportunities on a regular basis. However, we wish our children to experience quality family time, have the time to pursue recreational activities and to be able to rest and relax whilst at home.

Consequently our policy is based on the following principles:

- i. that homework benefits children's personal and educational development;
- ii. that homework provides opportunities for parents to share learning experiences;
- iii. that homework can extend and support learning done in school;
- iv. that homework encourages independent learning and good organisation skills;
- v. that homework has a time limit which although may wish to be exceeded at times by the children, should not impinge on family life;
- vi. that homework prepares children for the secondary phase of education.

Progression

From our surveys it is clear that as children get older, pupils, parents and staff believe the amount of homework should increase.

The following list is not exhaustive but an indication of the homework tasks that will be set

Reception: The expectation is that parents will share books with children on a daily basis.

Year 1&2: Daily Reading, consolidation of basic number facts, practise of (15 mins daily) phonics/spellings learnt in school.

Year 3&4: Daily Reading, learning times tables facts, practise of spellings learnt (20 mins daily) in school, consolidation of maths and grammar skills.

Year 5&6: Daily Reading, revising times tables facts, practise of spellings learnt in (30 mins daily) school, consolidation of maths and grammar skills.

In addition, Year 6 children may have revision tasks in the lead up to KS2 SATs.

Each term a selection of enrichment activities will be given to the children. These are suggestions only and designed to provide extended opportunities for parents to support their children's learning. Children will be rewarded for the activity they choose to complete in line with the school's positive behaviour reward system. All children will have an opportunity to present their chosen activity, which will help fulfil the requirements of the spoken language curriculum.

Examples of enrichment activities are;

- visit the local library
- speak to a relative about how their childhood was different from yours
- do some gardening
- follow a recipe
- make a bird feeder and record the birds that visit it
- try a new sport
- build a model
- visiting a unknown town or city
- visiting a farm/zoo
- play a board game
- learn to play a piece of music
- research a famous artist/scientist/musician/engineer etc

Marking

All children have a reading record, in which parents and, as they get older, the children themselves, can write comments about their reading. This will be looked at regularly by staff at school. If online programs are used, such as mathletics, they are often self-marking and the results are reviewed by staff. Learning basic number facts, including times tables and learning spellings provide important reinforcement for learning undertaken in school. Works may be marked in class with the children, peer marked or marked by an adult. Verbal feedback will be given rather than written feedback.

We recognise family life can be busy and so sufficient time will be allocated so parents can support children to complete tasks on time. Children will be encouraged to complete tasks and will be rewarded for finishing and returning work on time. If a child continually struggles to complete homework, class teachers will discuss this with parents. Homework club is offered to children in Years 3-6, run by TAs, for children who prefer to complete tasks at school.