

St Mark's CE Primary School
Homework Policy February 2025

Rationale:

At St. Mark's CE Primary School we believe that when home and school work together children's progress is significantly improved.

Aims

- To ensure parents are clear about what their child is expected to do.
- To ensure consistency of approach throughout the school.
- To use homework as a tool to help to continue to raise standards of attainment and enjoyment of learning, especially in the basic skills.
- To provide opportunities for parents, children and the school to work together in partnership in relation to children's learning.
- To encourage pupils and their parents to share and enjoy learning experiences.
- To reinforce work covered in class by providing opportunities for the individual pupil.
- To practise or consolidate basic skills and knowledge, especially in English and maths.
- To encourage children to develop the responsibility, confidence and self-discipline needed to study independently.
- To prepare year 6 pupils for the transfer to secondary school.

Role of the Class Teacher

- To provide an explanation of homework tasks to parents when necessary and give guidance of how they might assist their child.
- To set weekly 'basic skills' homework tasks every Friday, with work to be completed and handed in (in their homework books) by the following Wednesday.
- To set a project task at the end of each half term, to consolidate the learning which has taken place over that half term.
- To ensure that any homework is purposeful and links directly to the taught/previously taught curriculum.
- To ensure that homework is adapted for children who are working below the level of their actual year group.
- To reward and praise children who regularly complete homework tasks using our reward system.
- To ensure that when pupils who do not complete their weekly 'basic skills' homework, this is addressed with children and/or parents in line with this policy.
- To mark homework each week for accuracy, and to provide constructive written feedback to pupils which will have an impact on their learning as and when appropriate, and at least every half term.

Role of Parents/Carers

- To support the school by ensuring that their child attempts their basic skills homework each week.
- To ensure that their child reads regularly at home, and to complete their child's reading record.
- To encourage their child to complete project homework tasks set at the end of each half term.
- To provide a suitable place for their child to carry out their homework.
- To encourage and praise their child when they have completed their homework, creating a positive environment.

- To become actively involved and support their child with homework activities, including helping them to develop time management skills and independent skills.
- To make it clear that they value homework and they support the school by explaining how it can help learning.

Homework Tasks

Basic skills homework will be set each week, on Fridays. **Homework books will be sent home containing the worksheets required for the tasks, and a message will be shared on Class Dojo explaining what is required.** The amount of time to be spent by children in each year group is outlined below, along with an explanation of how/where children will access their homework task. Basic skills homework tasks should be completed by the following Wednesday, **with homework books returned to class teachers each Wednesday.**

Parents/carers who have queries about homework should not hesitate to ask their class teacher.

All Pupils: Read at home **at least 4 times per week (and ideally 5 times)** and ensure there is an entry from a parent/carer on their reading record.

Up to Year 2: each reading session should be 10 minutes

Years 3 to 6: each reading session should be 15 minutes

This can include Family Reads and other books at home, but should include the child's reading book at least twice per week.

Nursery class	Autumn Term: Sharing a library book with a parent Spring and Summer Terms: Starting with lilac book band picture books, children will start to bring reading books home to share with a parent
Reception class	Basic skills task in homework books – 20 minutes
Year 1	Basic skills task in homework book – 20 minutes Spelling practice - 10 minutes
Year 2	Basic skills task in homework book – 20 minutes Spelling practice -10 minutes
Year 3	Basic skills task in homework book – 30 minutes Spelling practice – 15 minutes Times tables practice – 15 minutes – using TTR
Year 4	Basic skills task in homework book – 30 minutes Spelling practice – 15 minutes Times tables practice – 15 minutes – using TTR
Year 5	Basic skills task in homework book – 40 minutes Spelling practice – 20 minutes Times tables practice – 15 minutes – using TTR
Year 6	Basic skills task in homework book – 40 minutes Spelling practice – 20 minutes SATs practice – 30 minutes
	<i>The basic skills task will be chosen to reinforce skills which have been taught during the previous week, or may be chosen to recap something from a previous term which children will need to remember and build on during the following week. The task may be based on spelling, punctuation, grammar, handwriting or arithmetic, or may be a mixture of shorter tasks. Spelling Practice will link to RWI Spelling, but for children not yet accessing the programme, spellings will focus on high frequency words.</i>

Half-Termly Project

In addition to the weekly tasks, class teachers will set a project at the end of each half term. The project will focus on the learning from that half term, and will give children opportunity to demonstrate what they have learnt. They will have some choice about what is included and how their work is presented. This task will be set on Class Dojo at the end of each half term, and will be due in by the end of the second week of the following half term.

Rewards

For reading homework:

- Children will receive 1 'Reading At Home' team point for each entry in their reading diary.
- If children have five entries in a week, they have an extra 5 minutes of playtime at the end of the week.
- Children receive a raffle ticket for reading four times per week, and this will be drawn each Monday to award a Star Reader book to a child in each key stage.

For basic skills homework:

- Children receive a 'Homework' team point for every piece of completed work (providing that the standard of work is as high as it should be).
- At the end of each half term, a spelling test will be completed, and stationery rewards will be given to children who score at least 16/20.

For completing half-termly projects:

- If the project homework is completed to a high standard, 5 'Homework' team points will be awarded.

Incomplete Homework

Class teachers will carefully monitor the return of basic skills homework. If children fail to complete basic skills homework at home, they will be given an opportunity to do so during the school day (at break or lunchtime). **Children in Year 3 and above will be expected to complete their homework during their breaktime if it is not handed in on time.** Parents of children who regularly do not engage with homework will be invited into school to discuss ways of supporting their child.

Role of the Headteacher and Governing Body

- To monitor compliance to the policy.
- To meet and talk with parents/carers when appropriate.
- To discuss with staff how far the policy is being successfully implemented.
- To inform new parents to the school so that they are aware of the requirements of the home/school agreement.

Signed (Co-Chairs of Governors) _____

Signed (Head Teacher) _____