

ALPINGTON & BERGH APTON CHURCH OF ENGLAND V.A. PRIMARY SCHOOL

HOMEWORK POLICY

APPROVED BY THE GOVERNORS: January 2019

DATE FOR REVIEW: January 2022



Alpington & Bergh Apton CE VA Primary: Homework Policy 2019

The homework policy has been reviewed in the light of comments retrieved from parental questionnaires and following staff and governor consultation.

1 Introduction

Homework is anything children do outside the normal school day that contributes to their learning, in response to guidance from the school. Homework encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents/carers to support the children's learning. For example, parents or carers who spend time reading stories to their children before bedtime are helping with homework.

2 Rationale for homework

Homework is part of a child's education, and can add much to a child's development.

We see homework as an example of cooperation between teachers and parents/carers. It is also an opportunity for parents and children to engage in a conversation about their learning. One of the aims of our teaching is for children to develop as independent learners, and we believe that doing homework is one way in which children can begin to acquire the skill of independent learning. However, cooperation and support from parents is helpful if the learning is to be meaningful.

Homework can play a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment. However, we also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development. Homework should not prevent children from taking part in the activities of various out-of-school clubs and of other organisations. Children spend more time at home than at school, and we believe that they develop their interests and skills to the full only when parents/carers encourage them to make maximum use of the opportunities available outside school.

Please refer to the termly curriculum maps which are sent home at the beginning of each term as these advise parents of the topics and areas of learning your child will be studying. These are also available on the school website.

3 Aim and objectives of homework:

We use homework to encourage children to reach their potential through the acquisition of knowledge, skills, confidence and independence. It is also an opportunity for parents to work with their child and become more involved in their learning and progress. We aim to inspire and motivate the children to choose to further their learning at home independently and welcome their contributions and celebrate their efforts.

We believe homework provides the following benefits:

- To consolidate and reinforce the learning done in school, and to allow children to practise skills taught in lessons
- To enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development
- To prepare pupils for further educational experiences and to provide educational experiences not possible in school
- To promote cooperation between home and school in supporting each child's learning
- To enable some aspects of the curriculum to be further explored independently
- To help children develop good work habits for the future

4 Administration

Homework is given to pupils at the class teacher's discretion and at an appropriate age, ability and development level. In KS2 homework is set at least once a week. In both key stages and EYFS, reading books are sent home on a regular basis. The range of homework set may include:

- Reading - all pupils are expected to read or share a book with an adult at home, daily
- Parents should read books to their child. Sharing books is just as valuable in aiding a child's progress in reading as is your child reading to you or to their teachers
- Written tasks
- Maths tasks
- Research/investigations
- Playing games
- Collecting items/examples
- Rote learning e.g. spellings, multiplication tables
- Practical activities such as weighing cooking ingredients, handling real money and familiarising children with time and measures are of great value to all pupils

Home/reading record books are used as means of communication between home and school.

5 Feedback

All homework completed well is acknowledged and responded to either through discussion, evaluation or marking. In KS2 parents are informed if pupils fail to complete homework on a regular basis. Enough time is allocated for completion to allow for any problems or difficulties to be talked through with the teacher. We recognise that children have individual learning styles, which means that some tasks can be completed in a number of different ways, while others demand a particular approach.

6 Inclusion and homework

We set homework for all children as a normal part of school life. We ensure that all tasks set are appropriate to the ability of the child, and we endeavour to adapt any task set so that all children can contribute in a positive way. When setting homework for pupils on the register of special needs, we refer to those pupils' Individual Education Plans or Targets.

7 Current Homework Arrangements at Alpington

Foundation Stage: New pupils take reading books home regularly in their first term and then on a daily basis. As their learning progresses they are also given letter sounds, CVC and high-frequency words to reinforce at home. Parent/child talk is proved to be invaluable in enabling children to lay the foundations of early learning and we encourage children to share interests with their parents.

Year 1 pupils are asked to read daily to their parents. Spellings to learn are based on the common exception words and the phonic blends when necessary.

Year 2 pupils have reading homework on a daily basis. Spellings to learn are given once a week to be reviewed at home and in class which are based on their phonic sounds. Children are given mental maths targets to encourage fluency with essential number facts. These are shared with parents at parent/teacher meetings. It is always helpful to talk with your child about any learning they are engaged in; the termly topic sheets provide the details. In the weeks leading up to SATS pupils will be given short comprehension tasks, arithmetic and reasoning questions to practise at home with their parents.

Year 3 and 4 pupils

We expect pupils to continue with regular reading activities. They have spellings and mental maths targets to learn which are then tested in class on alternate weeks. They have group reading homework to complete at home.

Year 5 and 6 pupils

Children are given weekly maths and/or English work based on their learning in class. They have spellings and mental maths targets to learn which are then tested in class on a weekly basis. Children are also expected to read daily, with homework being set via group reading sessions. Comprehension and additional tasks may also be set to support the pupils' learning needs.

For Year 6 pupils: In the weeks leading up to SATS pupils follow a specific revision programme.

8 Amount of homework

As they move through the school, we increase the amount of homework that we give the children.

Homework during school holidays

We believe that in primary school holidays should be a time of refreshment and enjoyment with pupils taking the opportunity to spend time with their families and friends, being free to pursue other interests. However, we do expect that pupils will continue to read to their parents and to be read to during this time. This is especially true over the long summer holiday. The love of books, becoming fluent and interested in reading is at the heart of learning for all ages. Occasionally a class teacher may ask the pupils to undertake simple tasks during the holidays such as collect items or keep a tally of something etc. ... but this is meant to be light touch only. Individual parents and teachers may also make an arrangement to suit a child's circumstances if this is mutually agreeable.

It is inevitable that the pupils in upper KS2, especially in Year 6, will be given some homework to do over the school holidays as they come towards end of KS2 tests.

9 The role of parents and carers

Parents and carers have a vital role to play in their child's education, and homework is an important part of this process. We ask parents and carers to encourage their child to complete the homework tasks that are set. We invite them to help their children as and when they feel it to be necessary, and to provide them with the sort of environment that allows children to do their best. Parents and carers can support their child by providing a good working space at home, by enabling their child to visit the library regularly, and by discussing the work that their child is doing. Ideally, parents should read with their children every day to help them develop a love of books and stories and help them to grow in confidence. We ask parents and carers to sign their child's Reading Record to show that they have heard their child read and discussed their books. If parents and carers have any questions about homework, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher.

Homework is seen in part as a preparation for the more independent learning undertaken at secondary school.

10 Use of ICT

The school is increasingly using a range of apps and websites to support your child's learning. These will be made available to you in order for your child to log-on at home. A copy of the school's E-Safety Policy is available from the school office and may also be found on the school website. The child's safety is paramount in all matters regarding use of the internet and we advise parents and carers to always supervise their child's access to the internet.

The use of ICT and the internet has made a significant contribution to the amount of reference material available at home, and the ease and speed with which it can be accessed. However, our teachers expect their pupils to produce their own work, perhaps by editing something they have found, or by expressing it in their own words. The children are not achieving anything worthwhile by copying, pasting and printing out something that has been written by somebody else. There are many websites containing highly educational material which can have a powerful effect on children's learning. We aim to provide links to some of them via the school website or newsletters.