



Homework Policy

Last reviewed date: January 2019

Review date: October 2020

Next review date: October 2023

At Abbey School we have three types of work/learning:

- school work - completed in school under the direction of the teacher
- remote learning - school work carried out at home set by the teacher
- home work - completed at home to supplement and consolidate the school work

Remote learning

'Remote learning' activities are provided for children who are well and able to work from home but cannot attend school. Parents must email via admin@abbey.herts.sch.uk to notify the teacher of the absence and requirement for remote learning. The teacher will upload the missed day's PowerPoint and worksheets at the end of the school day for the following day. The tasks will be open-ended and accessible to all. The remote learning will be acknowledged within two working days with a moving on suggestion if appropriate.

Homework

'Homework' at the Abbey School refers to any work or activities which pupils are asked to do outside of school, either on their own or with parents or carers. Homework may be set against any of the lessons taught in school, from English or Maths to any of the Foundation subjects.

Homework Overview

The overall aim of the homework policy is to promote learning at home as an essential part of good education. Homework not only reinforces classroom learning, but also helps children to develop skills and attitudes they need for successful lifelong learning. It supports the development of independent learning skills, including the habits of enquiry and investigation. Homework should not become onerous for children or staff.

Homework is likely to be IT based with increasing demand as children move through the school. IT apps include ClassDojo, G Suite for Education Google Classroom and Times Tables Rockstars. Those families without access to a computer/device at home will be supported by the school where possible. If homework tasks are not carried out, children will be asked to complete homework tasks during their free time in school.

Homework Aims

- ❖ To consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding, particularly in English and Maths;
- ❖ To extend school learning through additional reading, research or access to resources available at home or elsewhere;
- ❖ To encourage pupils to take charge of their learning and to explore and investigate wider areas of study;
- ❖ To provide opportunities for parents, pupils and school to work in partnership
- ❖ To provide opportunities for parents to participate actively in their children's learning
- ❖ The setting and responding of homework should be manageable for teachers
- ❖ Homework and remote learning will be acknowledged by the teacher within two working days with a moving on suggestion if appropriate

- ❖ To encourage pupils, as they grow older, to develop the skills of organisation and self-discipline needed to study on their own, and to prepare them for the requirements of secondary school;

Homework Implementation

- Homework is a complimentary part of the curriculum and is planned and prepared alongside class based programmes of learning.
- It will be appropriate to the age, ability and circumstances of the pupils, taking into account Special Educational Needs. Some homework activities will be differentiated.
- A range of tasks will be set that are purposeful, enjoyable and varied to ensure a balance of activities.
- Homework may not be set every evening. Some tasks, especially in Key Stage 2, may be cumulative and spread out.

Homework Planning

The class teacher will explain the homework routines eg days set, days for completion, to ensure a familiar routine and to encourage parents/carers to become actively involved in joint homework activities with children. This will be explained in the termly Curriculum Letter.

Pupils are required to:

- Show commitment to carrying out tasks in allocated time at home and giving work in on time
- Set for themselves high expectations in presentation skills, similar to those shown in school
- Ensure understanding of tasks set before taking them home, where appropriate;
- Taking homework home and returning it on the correct days, where appropriate

Parents are asked to:

- Enable homework tasks to be carried out at home, by allowing time, a quiet space and opportunities to discuss any issues arising from the work;
- Support the children's efforts through encouragement and praise;
- To alert teachers via email admin@abbey.herts.sch.uk to any problems arising from the homework – alternatively this can be done through the Reading Record if it goes home

Abbey School will:

- Provide a termly Curriculum Letter and vocabulary list for each year group to assist with homework.
- Provide an evolving homework programme throughout the school;
- Ensure that children understand the task either verbally or with instructions provided. Children do not have a homework diary. And only some year groups have reading records that go home.
- Vary and differentiate the homework tasks set to ensure both a balanced programme and challenge;
- Give opportunities for all pupils to succeed;
- Acknowledge the pupils' homework through within two working days with a moving on suggestion if appropriate

Special Educational Needs

The homework tasks will be open-ended and accessible to all. At times, some children may benefit from special tasks separate from the homework set for other children in the class. In such cases there will be close co-ordination between the class teachers and parents/carers.

Reading

Reading Records are provided for all children. Year 3 and Year 4 keep the reading record at school and children in Reception, Year 1 and 2 take them home.

Infant classes have the same style of Reading Record. Year 3 and 4 use an age appropriate Reading Record for the children to use more independently and Year 5 and 6 have a third style of record.

The children's reading books will either come from the Oxford Reading Tree Scheme, the age appropriate Class Library in each of the Key Stage 2 classrooms or from the School Library. Some of these reading books (fiction or non-fiction) may be taken home and must be looked after carefully. School Library books must be scanned out to the child.

Year group	<u>Home Work Time Allocations (including reading):</u>	<u>Homework Activities include:</u> For each year group, homework could include a selection from the following activities. All KS2 pupils will have at least one piece of set homework each week.
Reception	Not more than 10 minutes reading and book sharing each day. Early readers may need the parent to read to them and eventually with them pointing out letter sounds and looking at the meaning of the text.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shared reading of school reading book/library book • Using the termly High Frequency Word list and vocabulary list to find and learn words
Year 1	10 minutes each day, but not more than 1 hour per week. During this time parents are expected to hear their children read, taking time to discuss the pictures and storyline.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily reading practice and discussion of school reading book • Learning up to 10 spellings per week (Spring and Summer terms) recorded in an orange spelling book • Topic based activities, where appropriate, to enhance their learning
Year 2	10 minutes each day, but not more than 1 hour per week. During this time parents are expected to hear their children read, taking time to discuss the pictures and storyline.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily reading practice and discussion of school reading book. • Preparation for topic work • Maths, literacy and topic activities • Times Tables practice (Pupils to recall and use multiplication and division facts for the 2, 5 and 10 multiplication tables) • Children to consolidate spelling patterns linked to their phonics session.
Year 3	Leading up to 1 ½ hours per week. Junior children are to be encouraged to read to parents and make predictions about the story.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily reading practice and discussion of the text. • Activities related to English, Maths or topic work • Times Tables practice (Pupils now use multiples of 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10, 50 and 1)
Year 4	Leading up to 1 ½ hours per week. Junior children are to be encouraged to read to parents and make predictions about the story.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily reading practice and discussion of the text. • Activities relating to classroom English work, including punctuation and grammar • Activities related to English, spelling, Maths or topic work • Times Tables practice (up to 12 x 12)
Year 5	Leading up to 2 ½ hours per week. Upper Key Stage 2 children should discuss with parents the book they are reading and other books the author has written and comment on style and presentation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily reading practice and discussion of the text. • Activities relating to classroom English work, including punctuation and grammar • Activities related to English, spelling, Maths or topic work • Times Tables practice (up to 12 x 12)
Year 6	Leading up to 2 ½ hours per week. Upper Key Stage 2 children should discuss with parents the book they are reading and other books the author has written and comment on style and presentation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily reading practice or at least 20 mins reading three times per week • Activities relating to classroom English work, including spelling, punctuation and grammar • Maths tasks • Reading comprehension • Research for topic work – as required • Times Tables practice (up to 12 x 12)