

GORSE HILL PRIMARY HOMEWORK POLICY

INTRODUCTION

We consider liason between home and school to be crucial to the children's academic development and homework forms an important part of this link. We set homework for three main reasons;

- a) It encourages the children to learn self management of time, work requirements, organisation and presentation.
- b) It involves parents in the shared process of undertaking the work, and learning about the children's daily experiences.
- c) It prepares the children for the demands of secondary school.

WHAT IS HOMEWORK?

Our homework activities are related to the work your children are doing at school but will not always be written work.

For young children it will usually be:

Reading with parents or carers
Games or activities to practice literacy, maths or other skills

For older children, homework may also include:

Reading
Preparing a presentation to the class
Finding out information
Designing or making something
Trying out a simple scientific experiment
Solving problems
Completing literacy, maths or other work, learning lines for whole school assemblies/productions.

Where possible differentiation of homework should take place by "outcome", that is, the individual effort and ability of the children who undertake the work. In normal circumstances it will not be differentiated through the setting of a variety of task.

Should I help my child with homework?

Homework allows you to see what your children are doing and to support their learning. We take the view that children are likely to get more out of an activity if parents get involved -as long as they do not take over too much!

If you are unsure about how much help to give, you should discuss it with your child's teacher. They will be pleased to see you and will help you to get the balance right.

Teachers will give guidance for parents of each year group outlining the specific types of work their children will be expected to do that year.

HOMEWORK ACTIVITIES

We expect there to be a progression in the level of difficulty and the quantity of homework the children undertake as they progress through school.

All children take part in the school's "shared reading" programme.

The following section outlines this progression and supplements the general list of homework on page 1.

NURSERY. Children share library books, and bring items into school for topic collections.

RECEPTION. Children take home share reading books home each week and a word a list is sent home at the beginning of the year. The children also contribute to topic collections.

YEAR 1. Home Reading books /activities (as above)
Half termly 'homework suggestion' lists (see appendix 2)
Occasional worksheets related to topics and topic collections.

YEAR 2. Home Reading books
As Year 1, plus extra work supporting literacy and Numeracy in the second half of the year.

YEAR 3. Home Reading books
Spellings taken from differentiated lists.
Times tables, or other maths activities.
Homework is given twice a week.

YEAR 4. Home Reading books
As Year 3, with extension as appropriate.
Homework is given twice weekly

YEAR 5/6. Home Reading books
Weekly spellings/literacy and maths work.
Reading activities involving target setting and book reviews.
Additional work is given in other areas of the curriculum.
Homework is given at least twice a week.

Children are also set extra work at the discretion of the Teaching Assistants, working alongside the Class teacher.

There may be some sanctions taken at the discretion of the class teacher for children who persistently do not complete homework tasks

Mr. Critchley

Reviewed January 2012

Signed

Head

Governing Body

Appendix 1

Further information for Parents

The following is further information regarding homework, for Teachers, Parents and School Governors to refer to as appropriate

12 things you can do to help your child learn

- 1.** Give your child confidence through lots of praise and encouragement.
You have tremendous power to strengthen your child's confidence - and confidence is vital to learning.
Provide specific praise that focuses on a particular aspect of their work. Comments such as "I like the way you have..." is more effective than "you're clever".
- 2.** Read to, and with, your child as much as possible.
This is important for all children even as those who are 'free readers', in the older classes
- 3.** Encourage your child to observe and talk about what they see, feel, think etc.
Even young children can be helped to read notices and signs, for example, and understand what they mean.
- 4.** Make use of your local library.
Look out for special events and services for children.
- 5.** Visit museums and other places you think your child might find interesting.
Children now have free admission to major national museums and art galleries.
- 6.** If your child likes watching television, watch it together sometimes and talk about what has been watched. Children enjoy sharing their experiences and will gain a lot from the discussion.
- 7.** Try to provide a reasonably quiet and suitable place where your child can work and show that you and all members of the family value and respect the homework activity.
- 8.** Try to set time aside to support your child's homework activities whilst also allowing some independence where appropriate.
- 9.** Encourage your child to discuss homework with you, including feedback from teachers.
- 10.** Try to help your child to see the enjoyable aspects of homework.
- 11.** Help your child to see the importance of homework and teach them to become more independent and take more responsibility for themselves as they get older.
- 12.** Remind your children to complete and hand in homework on time.
A copy of your child's homework programme will be provided at the start of each year but please ask if you need another one.

KS1 Half term Homework suggestion activities
(see copies)

Y3

We give 1 Lit and 1 Num homework every week. This may be a double-backed sheet on occasion. (I guess that could count as two if you wish to split hairs) **We also give spellings and times tables to learn.** These are on sheets. This homework is given out all at once every Friday. Mrs. Bailey may also give homework to her L and S chdn through the week-but you mention that anyway