



St Mary's C of E Primary School Homework Policy – Autumn 2016

Introduction / Rationale

At St Mary's we feel that home / school liaison is extremely important. We recognise that children who are encouraged, supported and helped at home will feel good about their work and this will enhance their progress.

Aims and objectives

Through the setting of homework we aim to

- Support children to develop the skills and attitudes they will need for lifelong learning.
- Reinforce and consolidate learning.
- Develop independent learning skills.
- Provide opportunities for parental interaction.

Content and organisation of homework

Home school liaison is a two way process and concerns, problems, praise and encouragement can be communicated through the homework book, the reading record book or in a meeting with the teacher where there are severe concerns.

Reading Years R – 6

All children will start reading wordless books in Reception and then progress onto the school reading scheme. Children have passed the benchmarking for 'Black' books, they will become a free reader. Reading books are also available on our online reading programme 'Bug Club' and books are added fortnightly.

A reading record book will be taken home everyday. We expect children to read at home to an adult at least 3 times a week. This needs to be recorded and signed by the adult in the child's reading record book. We welcome parental comments about the reading they have heard. Children who read at home 5 or more times a week will be rewarded with their name on the 'Reading Challenge', which can lead to a prize half termly.

Homework book

In addition to the reading record book, each child will have a **homework book**, which will have the homework tasks and the due by date. It is expected that parents will sign to confirm the homework has been done and write in any relevant comments, including any issues that may have arisen during the completion of the homework.

Spellings

At the beginning of the year, the children will be given a list of all of the words in the National End of Year Expectations for their Year group. The children may not be tested on all of these words, but they will be expected to show their ability to spell the words when completing written tasks. These words should be practised when possible.

At the beginning of each half term, each child will be given an A4 sheet with an overview of the spelling tests for the next 6 weeks. Each week will be a different spelling pattern, taken from the National Curriculum End of Year Expectations. The word lists will be differentiated so there will be 3 spelling groups in each class but all working on the same pattern.

The children will practice their spelling lists in school, as well as at home, in daily Spelling/Phonics sessions. In Early Years and KS1 Phonics is taught in class with TAs taking out intervention groups. It is taught daily for half an hour following 'Letters & Sounds'. In KS2, Spelling is taught daily in 10 minute sessions following the 'teach, practice, apply' model.



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In Year 1 & 2, children will be given 10 words to learn following the spelling pattern of the week and these are taken from the End of Year Expectations for spellings. During the test on a Thursday, all 10 words will be called out by a teacher.

In Years 3, 4, 5 and 6, children will be given 8 words to learn following the spelling pattern of the week and these are also taken from the End of Year Expectations for spellings. They will then choose 2 more words from spelling corrections in their literacy book. During the test on a Thursday, the first 8 words will be called out by a teacher. The children will not be tested on the last 2 words in school so parents are expected to test their child on these 2 words at home.

For Years 2 – 6 there will also be an optional challenge for the children. There will be up to 5 mystery words following the spelling pattern of the week. This will give children the opportunity to apply what they have learnt about the particular spelling pattern.

At the end of the spelling test, the tests may be marked by the teacher or teaching assistant, by the child themselves or by another child. Their scores will be checked by a teacher before their homework books go home on a Thursday.

In addition to reading and learning spellings each week there are further tasks dependent on the year group:

Additional Homework tasks each week

All pupils in Years 1 – 6 will be set a weekly Maths task. For Years 2 – 6 this will be Mathletics (online maths programme) every other week. Pupils can access this from home using their personal Login.

Year 1 will be set four optional topic-related projects to be done at home, which will then be displayed on the topic wall display in the classroom.

Literacy / Topic

Literacy / Topic task (Years 2 – 6): Pupils will be given a topic homework sheet at the beginning of each half term. There will be nine options for them to choose from for that half term (they will usually complete at least 6 depending on number of weeks). Activities will be mainly writing based but will also include some creative tasks e.g. DT / Art etc.

- 6 writing
- 1 Art / DT
- 1 spelling or grammar (this must be completed)
- Each task will include a differentiated Success Criteria or 'must, should, could.'
- Teachers to provide a pack of checklists and examples for parents to use to support their children with their writing e.g. features of a Newspaper Report etc. These will be put on the School website, so that they are easily accessible for parents.
- Writing tasks set will only include genre that has been taught in the previous half term.
- One of the tasks will be an online 'Education City' task, linked to Science, Geography and History (set by the teacher.) Pupils can access this from home using their personal login.
- Every child will get one 'Homework pass' that they can use e.g. if they can't complete their HW because it was their birthday or they were away that weekend etc.



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Reception

During home visits, prior to starting in Reception, children will be given letter and number cards to support their learning. Once they start Reception, and start to learn new sounds, they will be given optional phonics sheets to support learning these sounds at home. Optional Maths homework will set weekly in the Summer Term.

- **Year 1:** Maths task and 1 Literacy task (10 mins each) and an **optional** Topic task.
 - **Year 2:** Maths task and 1 Literacy / Topic task (15 mins each).
 - **Year 3:** Maths task and 1 Literacy / Topic task (20 mins each).
 - **Year 4:** Maths task and 1 Literacy / Topic task (20 mins each).
 - **Year 5:** Maths task and 1 Literacy / Topic task (30 mins each).
 - **Year 6:** Maths task and 1 Literacy / Topic task (30 mins each).
- Year 6 will also be set a weekly SPAG homework as optional revision, which will not be marked by the Teacher but the answers will be sent home for the child and parents to mark it together.

Written tasks should take no longer than as stated. If your child has been on task and fully focused for this time and still not completed the work, then we recommend, that unless your child wishes to continue with the task, that you write a note to the teacher next to the homework, in their homework book.

Failure to complete homework and hand in on time will result in the child being asked to complete the work during a lunchtime.

No formal homework will be set during the holiday periods although it is an expectation that parents will continue to read with their children.

Curriculum Week Projects for Years 1 – 6

At St Mary's we hold a Curriculum week with a different focus each term. As part of the Curriculum week, all children Years 1 – 6 will be set a homework project appropriate for their age and ability, linked to the focus for the week. The children will be given 2 weeks to complete the project. Parents will be encouraged to support their child by asking questions and providing guidance but this must be their child's work.

Role of the teacher

To support learning at home teachers need to:

- Set homework taking into account the age and ability of the child.
- Ensure that all homework is stuck into the homework book.
- Explain the expectations for the homework set.
- Give timely feedback to the pupils in the homework book.
- Monitor completion of homework and apply consequences where needed.
- Provide opportunities for parents to attend curriculum evenings to learn more about how to support their child's learning.

Role of the parent

We believe the parents have a fundamental role to play in helping children to progress and achieve. Parents can support this by:

- Supporting and encouraging your child to complete their homework to the best of their ability in the time given.
- Signing your child's homework book.
- Signing your child's reading record book.



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- Contacting the school as soon as possible if you have any concerns regarding the homework.
- Attending curriculum evenings to learn how to support their child's learning.
- Attending Parent's Evenings to discuss their child's progress.

Role of the pupil

To support learning at home each pupil, dependent on age, will try to:

- Ensure the homework is taken home.
- Understand the homework expectations and ask for clarification at school if needed.
- Complete their homework to the best of their ability in the time given.
- Get their homework book signed by a parent.
- Get their reading record book signed by a parent.
- Hand in the homework by the due date.
- Read the feedback on the homework.

Monitoring and Review

The implementation of the policy will be regularly monitored by Key Stage Leaders in 2015-2016 and reviewed accordingly.

Home / school partnership – Homework provides a vehicle for consolidation and an opportunity to be challenged with the encouragement and support from home – together we are supporting **Learning for Life**.

Policy written by: Kate Chenery (Teaching and Learning Lead)

Next review due: Autumn 2017