

# **Sandbrook Community Primary School**

## **Homework Policy**

### **Introduction**

Homework is anything that children do outside the normal school day that contributes to their learning in response to guidance from the school. Homework encompasses a variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents to support children's learning. For example, a parent talking to their child about their learning and the world around them, or reading them a story before bed, is helping with their homework.

### **Rationale for homework**

Homework is a very important part of their child's education and can add much to a child's development. Children benefit from the mutual support of parents and teachers in encouraging them to learn both at home and in school. One of the aims of our school is to encourage children to develop as independent learners. We believe that homework is very important in developing this skill. Homework also plays an important part in raising a child's attainment; they will do better in school if they are able to practise key skills, such as reading and times tables, outside the normal school day. We believe that whilst homework is important, it should not be so onerous at primary school age, so as to prevent them from partaking in out-of-school clubs and activities, spending time with family, or resting and relaxing.

### **Aims**

At Sandbrook, homework is used to:

- reinforce classroom learning
- contribute to children's progress in school
- raise achievement
- provide opportunities to practise skills with parent/carer
- encourage learning as a life-long process
- promote habits of enquiry and investigation
- support development of independent learning skills
- promote an effective home/school partnership
- help pupils develop good work habits for the future

Before setting homework, teachers consider what it is they hope to achieve and how the work set will relate to the educational needs of the individual child. In setting homework, careful thought is given to differentiation amongst the children in the class either by task set, quantity of work expected or level of intended outcome.

### **Types of homework**

The school will set a variety of types of homework, including maths and writing activities, worksheets, research and small projects.

Listed below are a number of example tasks and activities that might be given as homework. This is by no means an exhaustive list and is open to constant change, although many of these

tasks and activities will be used on a regular basis. Homework activities will change to meet the needs of the pupils involved and activities that might be occurring in class. All homework tasks and activities will have a clear purpose and assist pupils in the process of their academic development:

- Reading activities/comprehension tasks/book reviews
- Phonics/spelling/grammar activities
- Number bonds/times table practice
- Creative writing tasks
- Scientific activities
- Conduct a survey or interview with an adult in their family
- Revision of maths concepts covered in class / maths investigations problem solving or puzzles
- Real life activities linked to shopping, cooking, money, travel or TV schedules etc.
- Researching and preparing for a new topic that will be covered in class
- Visiting an important place or building in the local community e.g. library, supermarket, gallery, museum, park etc.
- Compiling a quality project over an extended period of time (KS2)
- Planning and preparing a presentation

In addition to this, all children are expected to read every night (either online or printed books). The reading should be recorded in the reading diary and signed by an adult at least 3 times a week. Parents of older children, who may read to themselves, should discuss their reading with them to support their understanding of what they have read.

Spellings will be given to pupils in years 1-6 at an appropriate level for the children; they will be asked to use the words in context. As a general rule, there will be 5-10 spellings per week.

All pupils need to know their number bonds to 10 and 100, and by the end of Year 4, all should know their times tables to 12 x 12. Practising number bonds (pairs of numbers which add up to 10, 20 or 100) and times tables at home regularly is absolutely vital for all children.

### **Amount of homework**

We increase the amount of homework as the children move through the school; this is so that younger children are not overloaded and older children are more prepared for the amount of homework they receive in secondary school. Teachers will give pupils a reasonable amount of time to complete their homework.

### **Marking of homework**

Class teachers will be responsible for the setting of homework for their own class. The collecting and marking of homework activities will be overseen by both the class teacher and the TA. Where appropriate, some homework activities will be self or peer marked as this enables the children to receive immediate feedback.

A final check from parents and carers encourages the child to do their best and is also a good opportunity to place the homework in the schoolbag ready for handing in on time. Should there be a reason why homework is not completed within the given timescale, parents/carers should communicate reasons to the class teacher by letter. The school is an inclusive community, therefore it is expected that all children will complete homework tasks to an acceptable standard. Should this not be the case, the child will be expected to complete the

missed homework tasks during break times, and in some circumstances, parents will be contacted in order to address the situation.

### **The role of parents**

Parents have a vital role to play in their child's education and homework is an important part of this process. We ask parents to encourage their children to complete the homework tasks that are set but not to complete them for them. Parents can support their child by providing a suitable environment, without distractions (e.g. television), in which their child can complete their homework. If parents have any problems or questions about homework, they should contact the child's class teacher and discuss it with them as soon after the homework is set as possible.

The one-to-one attention that parents and carers can provide is invaluable in encouraging children's learning and understanding by allowing them to question and explain their ideas and praise their efforts.

The 'Meet the Teacher' appointments and the termly curriculum letters to parents will provide information about the homework timetable for their child's year group.

**This policy will be reviewed September 2017.**

