

## Homework Policy

At Firfield Primary School we value the Home - School partnership, working with parents and carers to enable children to achieve their full potential; developing interests and skills outside of the classroom. The policy has been written to take account of the views of pupils, parents and carers, and staff.

We seek to foster an active educational partnership between home and school. To help parents and carers to support their child's learning at home, we have produced the following policy to guide teachers and parents in working together. In this policy, 'homework' is defined as any work or activities which the children are asked to do outside of lesson time, either on their own or with their parents or carers.

It is hoped that families will support the work of school by familiarising themselves with the type of tasks set and helping their children to develop good working routines.

### The Purposes of Homework

- To provide opportunities for pupils, parents and the school to work in partnership
- To enable parents to gain an insight into their child's learning
- To encourage pupils to develop independent study skills over time and the self discipline required of them as they continue their educational journey through primary school and beyond
- To consolidate, revise or extend skills and understanding- particularly in Literacy and Numeracy.

## Homework expectations:

- Reading at least 4 times a week at home
  - Central to our homework policy is that all children, from EYFS to Year 6, are expected to read at home at least 4 times a week and that this is logged on BoomReader. At Firfield, reading is at the core of our curriculum and its value can not be understated; we learn to read and read to learn.
  - Research shows that a child who reads 20 minutes each day reads 3600 minutes in a school year and accumulates 1,800,000 words, making accelerated progress across the curriculum. Meanwhile, a child who reads only 1 minute per day reads only 180 minutes a school year and only explores 8,000 words creating a clear vocabulary gap which limits their progress and attainment in relation to their peers.
- Brain Gym
  - In addition to regular reading at home, children from EYFS to Year 6 will receive a weekly 'Brain Gym' activity sheet using the agreed school template. This will include a Maths activity and Literacy/Phonics/ Spellings activities depending on the year group. There will also be a retrieval exercise to recall learning from across the wider curriculum.
  - This will be sent out on a Friday. Where appropriate, teachers will send answers to the Maths activity on Class Dojo by Wednesday the following week so that children and parents can self-mark activity.
  - **Teachers are not expected to mark or provide written feedback on the Brain Gym activity sheet.**

To further supplement homework, the school has made available online learning resources as a optional extra to support children to reach their full academic potential. These include:

- TTRockstars to practise their times tables and to develop their mathematic fluency. Teachers will regularly set challenges on TTRockstars which can be accessed in school and at home.
- Numbots to develop pupils understanding, recall and fluency in addition and subtraction.
- Children in Year 3 - 6 will have access to Spelling Shed to practise their spellings. Teachers will regularly set assignments related to their weekly spelling words.
- Purple Mash will be primarily used to support the development of the children's Computing skills to support our Computing curriculum. The platform also has tools to develop knowledge and skills across the curriculum.

#### Additional information:

- No homework will be set over holiday periods for children in Years R - 5 or when children are on residential trips. Revision papers will sometimes be given to Year 6 children for the holidays throughout the year.
- No additional work will be set for parents wishing to take their children on holiday during term time. Holidays during term time - unless authorised by the Headteacher as being for exceptional circumstances - will be an unauthorised absence. See Attendance Policy.
- Some SEND pupils may require different homework to their peers if they are working significantly below age related expectations and/or have specific learning targets which could be supported through more bespoke homework. The class teacher will make a judgement whether the SEND child can access the same homework as their peers and if not, will provide a more individualised homework.

#### **As parents you can support your child and the school by:**

- Be an active part of your child's education, taking an interest and supporting them at home
- Supporting your child to read at least 4 times a week at home, and to read to your child as often as possible
- Take on board advice from teachers and act upon recommendations for learning at home
- Positively support the school's ethos of high expectations for all children
- Asking your child to explain the task set to you in their own words. This helps to consolidate their learning
- Encouraging your child with their homework and value their work
- Providing a quiet time and area for your child to complete the homework task(s)

Reviewed June 2024

To be reviewed June 2026