

Purbrook



Infant School

Homework Policy



Statement

We believe that our children benefit from being given a limited amount of work to do outside the school day, either on their own, or, more usually, with their parents. Homework can be purposeful “out of class learning” and it may be viewed as an essential part of good education that supports children’s development as independent learners. Homework involves all year groups although it may look different according to the age of the children, and can encompass a wide range of activities.

This policy aims to ensure that we have a consistent approach to homework throughout the school and forms a part of the school’s strategy to raise standards in literacy and numeracy and develop in our children the skills and attitudes necessary for independent learning.

Homework should not put pressure on young children or prevent them from relaxing and spending quality time with their families at home. We want to maintain a balance between helping children learn through the provision of homework opportunities and ensuring that they have time to play and relax.

Aims

- To consolidate, reinforce and extend both skills and understanding previously developed in school
- To allow children to discuss and reflect on their learning with their parents, thereby developing an effective learning partnership between home and school
- To take advantage of resources for learning of all kinds
- To develop the involvement of parents in their children’s education and help to keep parents informed as to their children’s learning and progress
- To further personalise learning, giving individuals extended opportunities to pursue interests and challenge themselves.

Types of Homework

Reading: regular reading to and with parents is vital.

All children will be asked to read at home or to share a book with their parents or other family members for between 10 and 20 minutes each day. As a guide:

Year R - 10 minutes

Year One - 15 minutes

Year Two - 20 minutes

The home reading challenge encourages parents to record this activity at least five times each week in their child’s reading message book. This is then shared in school and tracked by the child on their personalised Reading Challenge Track.

Spelling

Children in Year R will be asked to practise their high frequency words (teddy words) initially as part of their reading and later, where appropriate, as a spelling activity.

Children in Years One and Two will be expected to rehearse a small number of spellings each week in addition to their reading. These spellings will coincide with words and sound patterns already introduced in class. As well as spelling the words, the home spelling challenge encourages children to make collections of words and use the words in context.

Homework Challenge – for Year Groups

“Homework Challenges” will be set in all year groups each half term which will be specifically linked to work being carried out in the classroom. Homework challenges will reflect different areas of the curriculum

throughout the year. We will seek a variety of ways to share children's efforts and achievement in undertaking these homework activities.

Maths

In Years One and Two children will be set maths challenges to support their learning of key skills. In Year One the focus of these challenges is number bonds and in Year 2 times tables. Children will regularly complete a short challenge related to this learning in school and when appropriate will move to the next challenge. Progress and fluency will be tracked with the children and celebrated in school.

Talk Homework

Talk Homework will be promoted for all children on a given subject each week. The purpose of this is to develop language through the exploration of ideas. Talk homework will be revisited in school.

Additional Challenges

Periodically further challenges relating to specific curriculum areas may be set. At present writing and ICT challenges take place for children in each year group at least termly. The outcomes of these challenges are shared and celebrated widely with the whole school and small prizes for individuals and classes are given.

Children are also often encouraged to research further and bring their findings back into school e.g. through a challenge set at the end of assembly.

Linked Policies

Numeracy Policy

Literacy Policy (Writing/Reading/Spelling and Phonics)

Maths Policy

Marking Policy

Assessment Policy

ICT Policy