



South Hill Primary School

Home Learning Policy 2019/20

At South Hill we believe that homework is important for a number of reasons.

- It enables home and school to work in partnership and liaise more closely
- It encourages children to continue, consolidate and extend their learning from the classroom to home
- It helps to prepare the pupils for homework at Secondary School level
- It develops skills of independence and self-motivation and encourages a love of learning

Principles of homework at South Hill

- Homework is a reinforcement/ development of work covered in school and ties closely with our 'Creative Curriculum' focus for that term/half term.
- Homework set will be relevant and adequate to the children's needs and abilities and may be differentiated by ability, where appropriate. Homework will progress and develop in terms of content, time spent and degree of difficulty from Reception up to Year 6.
- Homework should not prevent children having interests and activities outside school which develop them as individuals. We firmly believe that time at home is also for relaxing and enjoying with families. For this reason, our new homework 'Pick and Mix' grid gives opportunities for children to complete some tasks verbally, with a focus on wellbeing and spending time as a family.
- Homework must be valued by all stakeholders- parents, teachers and children- and therefore set, completed and marked in a timely manner (meeting the deadline given) and to a high standard.
- The working environment provided at home for children to complete homework should be conducive to effective learning i.e. quiet, stress free and providing necessary tools to complete the task.

Homework structure

- In all year groups, Homework will be given on a **Wednesday** and should be returned to school the following **Monday**.
- Homework should be completed in pencil or handwriting pen. Children should take pride in the presentation of their homework and this should be the same high standard which is expected of them in class.
- Homework in **EYFS (Reception)** comprises of three elements: a weekly homework task (set using the Tapestry website), spellings (occasionally) and reading. In Autumn 1, as the children settle into school, homework will be a daily sound and letter formation sheet for children to practice at home.

| Reception | |
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| Weekly homework task | Homework in Reception will be set using a pick and mix grid and should be recorded on the 'Tapestry' app. Login details and consent forms for parents will be given out during the first few weeks of the autumn term. |
| Spellings | Occasionally, 'tricky word' spellings will be sent home for children to learn. These will not be tested at school. |
| Reading | Parents are expected to hear their children read 5 times a week and for this to be recorded 4 times a week in the child's 'Reading record book'. |

- Homework in **KS1 and KS2 (Years 1-6)** comprises of four elements: a weekly homework task, spellings, reading and times table practice.

| Years 1-6 | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Weekly homework task | This will be given at the start of every half term using a 'Pick and Mix' style grid of activities for children to choose from in their homework book, which is where written work tasks should be completed. There is no need to record 'verbal' tasks such as playing a family game or talking about what children have learnt. On the right hand side of the homework grid, parents must write which task their child has completed that week . In the Spring term, Year 6 will be asked to complete Sats revision guides instead of their weekly pick and mix homework in preparation for their Sats exams in May. |
| Spellings | Spelling lists will be given to children on a Wednesday and these must be learnt for a spelling test the following Wednesday . |
| Reading | In Years 1-5, parents are expected to hear their children read 5 times a week and for this to be recorded 4 times a week in the child's 'Reading record book'. Year 6 children are not required to have a reading record book as we encourage them to take more responsibility for their own learning and to read independently for both pleasure and academic study. |
| Times table practice | Children should spend time at least twice a week practicing their times tables to increase their confidence and speed in mental fluency skills using the app 'Times Table Rockstars'. Login details for children will be given out during the second week of the autumn term. |

Marking

- Homework will be marked once every half term by the class teacher and looked at as a 'whole project' and marked as so. **No homework will be given in school holidays** (with the exception of Year 6 revision guides).
- Teachers will **'spot check'** 3-4 pupils' homework books per week to ensure homework is being completed.

Sanctions and rewards

- Homework should be a **positive experience** and children will be rewarded for completing their homework via the school's behaviour and learning initiatives, such as merit marks, certificates or golden time etc.
- If children do not complete homework, **parents will be contacted by the Class Teacher** and, if this continues, by the **Head teacher** to discuss the reasons it is not being completed. **We do reserve the right to use appropriate sanctions** where homework is consistently not completed or given in on time.
- Parents are asked to contact their class teacher if they need help or support in this area, so that we can partner with parents to ensure all children are able to reach their full potential at South Hill.