



Horspath Church of England Primary School

Homework Policy

Spring 2020

Horspath C of E Primary School
Homework Policy

We define homework as any activity that pupils undertake outside of school lesson time, either on their own or with the support of family members. At Horspath we have a strong commitment to parental involvement and see homework as one way of developing this partnership.

The benefits of homework?

It can further stimulate enthusiasm for learning

- It encourages responsibility for learning and independent learning
- It is a great opportunity to rehearse key skills such as reading and times tables
- It takes advantage of the home environment and resources
- It can be a great source for gathering topic information
- It can inform parents about work going on in class and give an opportunity for one-to-one adult time
- It helps to foster good habits of organisation and self-discipline in preparation for the demands of Secondary School

Homework at our school

Whilst we support all of the above key principles, Horspath is not a school at which homework dominates home and school life. We accept that not every activity will capture children and parents' imagination and that weekends and evening can sometimes be busy. We believe that homework should be enjoyable and manageable and that if it becomes a chore, burden or source of conflict it ceases to be a constructive aspect of teaching and learning. We have therefore made a conscious decision that homework at our school will be limited to only the most useful activities. We do not specify amounts of time that must be spent on a task, preferring individual children and families to set their own routines. Individual teachers are happy to give advice.

We hope the children are intrinsically motivated by the sense of achievement and by the tasks themselves. Children are not punished if they fail to complete the work. However, discreet homework registers are kept and if a child consistently fails to complete tasks, this is discussed with the child and their parents.

Much of the homework that is set does not need marking or returning. However, if teachers choose to send homework that does need to be returned it will be marked and feedback will be given. We can provide support, time and space in school for children to complete homework if they are unable to complete these activities at home. We are happy to discuss this provision with you.

Our Homework expectations

We expect that children:

- Engage in a reading activity every day. If they are in a RWI group they will have a RWI book that they should read daily
- Complete a maths activity at least 3 times a week. We have online maths resources but if you do not wish to use these there is a list of other maths activities that you can do here
- Practise spelling at least 3 times a week. Lists of words your child should be able to spell by the end of the year are issued at the beginning of each term and are published on class pages
- Engage in Family Talk Homework. The talk homework is emailed weekly and is published on the home page of the school website.

We encourage parents to:

- Show a positive interest in homework; talk and ask questions.
- Help and support but encourage independent thinking.
- Ensure children have the time and space to complete homework.
- Praise children for their efforts.
- Priorities talking with their child – using the family talk homework as a stimulus if they wish

Teachers will:

- Explain the homework task and the learning purpose clearly.
- Set work at the appropriate level.
- Set deadlines if appropriate.
- Mark and give feedback on homework as appropriate

SATS Years

If your child is in Y2 or Y6 they may be given extra homework to help them get ready for their end of year statutory assessments. Teachers will discuss this with parents nearer time of the tests- usually in the spring term.

Learning for life

These areas of learning are essential and should be encouraged and enjoyed at home:

- **Talking** – time for talking will encourage interest in learning, the conversations are endless!
- **Reading** - this may be sharing a book, reading aloud or listening to a story. Children can choose a range of Reading Activities suggested in their yellow Reading Activity Book.
- **Spelling** - most children have spellings to learn on a weekly basis and they are often tested. Spelling is an important skill.
- **Writing** – children can enjoy practising writing at home. For example, they could practise writing their name or the days of the week; they could practise their handwriting or write a fabulous story!
- **Times Tables** – this is the most important number skill that children can learn and practise at home. Times tables are often tested in school. Once children know their times tables, they will be able to understand many other mathematical concepts and calculations.
- **Number work** - this may be counting, learning addition facts, subtraction facts, shapes, measures and playing games involving dice, cards and counters.
- **Research** - children may be asked to find out about areas of the curriculum that they are currently enjoying studying.
- **Interactive Learning** – children can access a range of interactive learning, including our online Maths Programme Mathletics or Timetables Rockstars

Through a positive homework policy we aim to encourage a successful partnership between school, parents and pupils, and support learning so that each child achieves success.

Reviewed: Spring 2020

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