

Heron Way Primary School Homework Guidelines

Date	Review Date	Coordinator	Nominated Governor
March 2021	March 2024	SLT	ASP

Homework Guidelines

Key Stage One

Objectives of Homework

- For all children to be encouraged to practice skills learnt in the classroom.
- To reinforce work taught by the class teacher.

Types of Homework set

Reception

Phonics	In the Spring term an activity linked to the phonemes of the week will be sent to share at home. This may be word building activity or a sound matching game to reinforce the weeks' learning.
Handwriting	During the autumn term letter formation sheets are sent home as the letters are introduced in class. To support parents, information about the actions and phoneme are sent home.
Reading	Children are expected to read daily. We will send home a levelled, coloured reading book matched to your child's ability as well as a book from the class library to share with an adult. We ask parents to feedback on children's reading at home by completing the reading diary. Children are encouraged to respond to their reading by drawing a picture and writing words or a sentence.
Topic	Each term a list of suggested homework activities are sent home linked to our topic. These reinforce the learning in all areas of our curriculum.

Years One and Two

Spelling	Spellings are sent home weekly linked to the phonemes / spellings patterns taught in class. Children are tested on their spellings each week in class.
Mathematics	A weekly activity is sent home to reinforce the week's learning. This may be a maths game to share, an activity to record or a practical activity.
Reading	To be completed on a daily basis. Children should be encouraged to read and share the books with you, to identify words, sound out unknown words and discuss the story. Home Readers are to be changed twice a week and are linked to the colour they read in class. Home Library books are free choice books and chosen from a selection in class. Google classroom is used as a platform for feedback. Children are encouraged to respond to their reading by drawing a picture and writing words or a sentence.

Children can expect:-

- Teachers to ensure that they are given reminders to change their books and games.
- Teachers to value the work presented to them.
- To use the **Google document** as a means of informal communication with their parents and vice versa.
- Teachers to ensure they have a list of words that are suitable for them to learn.

Teachers can expect:-

- Children to be responsible for changing their reading books.
- Children to take home the homework given.

Homework Timetable

Every child in Key Stage One is expected to read on a daily basis for at least 10 minutes.

In Years One and Two we recommend at least 5 to 10 minutes every day spent going over spellings or number bonds in addition to the time spent reading.

Maths homework should take no more than about 15 to 20 minutes in one session.

Homework Diaries

In Key Stage One we complete activities and records on Google Classroom in which the children can choose to write or draw a comment on the book they have read. This provides a means of informal communication between the parent and the class teacher.

How can Parents help?

- ❖ If your child has any problems help them but do not do it for them. If you are concerned about their comprehension please see their teacher.
- ❖ Set aside time to share and discuss the reading book with them.
- ❖ Make spelling and mental maths fun – do it as you are coming to school, in the bath, going shopping. Five minutes a day can make a huge difference.
- ❖ If your child finds it hard to organise themselves make sure they do it in the evenings before bed. Do not do it for them – they will never learn and soon it will become second nature.
- ❖ Set time limits for work to be completed so homework does not drag and become a traumatic experience for you or your children. Use a timer and set a negotiated time limit, which must be kept to. As your child grows in confidence increase the time.

Don't forget we are here to help so if there is a problem, please ask.

Homework Guidelines

Years 3 and 4

Homework is part of the learning process involved in the curriculum in Years 3 and 4. It is undertaken to enhance and reinforce good work habits and study skills.

Objectives of homework

Throughout Years 3 and 4 pupils will undertake a variety of tasks, the objectives of which will vary depending upon the task set. Some of the objectives involved in these tasks are:-

- To develop perseverance, self discipline and organisational skills,
- To encourage pupils to develop the practice of independent study,
- To develop a variety of study skills,
- To allow practice, where it is needed, of skills learned in the classroom,
- To open up areas of study and use of sources and materials not immediately accessible in the classroom,
- To provide an opportunity for individual research.

Types of homework set

In order to develop study skills such as investigation, organisation, concentration, completion, reviewing, improving and evaluating pupils may be asked to carry out: -

- Drawing activities – to enhance project work, related to topic work.
- Learning activities – tables and spellings.
- Oral activities – discussion work.
- Practice skills – tables and spelling.
- Reading – all subjects, fiction and non-fiction.
- Research – all subjects.
- Maths activities – developing mental maths and written calculations

Children can expect:-

- Teachers to plan and set homework directly related to their classroom studies and to aid development of appropriate study skills.
- Teachers to value the work presented and offer appropriate and helpful responses to aid future improvement. This may be through marking, discussion or other appropriate monitoring procedures.
- Teachers to explain homework tasks clearly.
- Teachers to provide an opportunity for pupils to record work in homework diaries.
- Teachers to modify activities and set clear expectations and targets related to the ability of the child.
- Teachers to set clear deadlines.
- Their homework may be self-marked, peer marked or marked by the teacher either in with written or verbal communication.

Teachers can expect:-

- Pupils to do their best at all times, irrespective of ability.
- Pupils to be responsible for recording homework in their homework diaries.
- Pupils to ask for help with tasks before the end of the school day, should they require it.
- Pupils to take pride in the presentation of their work.
- Pupils to complete all tasks set.
- Pupils to meet deadlines.
- Pupils to be responsible for ensuring they have all equipment required for homework **BEFORE** they leave school.

Homework Timetable

Year 3 will have an initial transition period in the first half of the Autumn term, in which the homework schedule will gradually build up to meet the lower ks2 expectations.

Children in Years 3 and 4 are expected, on a daily basis to: -

- To revise their spellings and tables.
- Spend a minimum of **20 minutes** on reading a range of genres. (Children with special needs may be required to complete extra tasks.)
- Spend up to **twenty - thirty minutes** on concentrated, uninterrupted study on a set task linked to either literacy, maths or topic work. If after 30 minutes you are unable to finish a task, stop and let your teacher know that you were finding it a challenge to complete in the recommended time.
- Spellings will be set on a fortnightly basis, to ensure that words are not only learnt, but embedded in all aspects of the children's writing. .

Please see the homework timetable below for specific days set and due. This will be stuck in your child's homework diary and may be adapted throughout the year.

How can parents help?

- ❖ Provide a quiet place where your child can work uninterrupted with no television.
- ❖ Take an interest in their work. Talk to them about how it relates to their work in class. Discuss ideas and approaches to the task, if this is appropriate, this will encourage them to understand their work and clarify thought processes.
- ❖ Encourage your child to take a pride in their work. Particularly in handwriting and presentation.
- ❖ If your child has a problem, help them – but please initial where you gave them help as this helps the teacher recognise where problems occurred.
- ❖ Be positive and encourage – be patient.
- ❖ It is not always possible for staff to estimate exactly how long homework will take but we do try to ensure that tasks will not exceed twenty minutes to half an hour.
- ❖ If your child is a 'slow' worker try to remind them every ten minutes to speed up or set ten minute targets.
- ❖ If your child is poor at organising their work and equipment – including returning their homework and packing their bags for school, make sure that they do it in the evening before they go to bed. Do not do it for them or they may never learn to do it for themselves!
- ❖ If children use the computer for word processing, please encourage the use of spelling and grammar checks.
- ❖ If your child uses the computer for research, do not allow them to simply print off pages of information, they must learn to be selective. They can either transfer relevant facts and photographs to a word document or type out a fact sheet.

DON'T FORGET WE ARE HERE TO HELP YOU AND YOUR CHILD.

**IF YOU HAVE A PROBLEM, PLEASE SPEAK TO US ON THE PLAYGROUND, TELEPHONE US AT SCHOOL
OR CONTACT US VIA THE SCHOOL OFFICE.**

WE WILL ALWAYS HELP IF WE CAN!

Homework Guidelines

Years 5 and 6

Homework is a fundamental part of the learning processes involved in the curriculum activities undertaken in years 5/6.

Homework is undertaken to develop the essential study skills and good work habits required when the children transfer to secondary school, at the end of year 6.

Objectives of homework

Throughout years 5/6 pupils will undertake a variety of tasks, the objectives of which will vary depending upon the task set.

Some of the objectives involved in these tasks may be: -

- to develop perseverance, self discipline and organisational skills,
- to encourage pupils to develop the practice of independent study,
- to develop a variety of study skills,
- to allow and consolidation of skills learned in the classroom,
- to provide an opportunity for individual research.

Types of Homework set

In order to develop fundamental study skills such as investigating, organising, planning, concentration, selecting, rejecting, completing, reviewing, improving, evaluating and many others, pupils may be asked to carry out: -

- Creative, factual, analytical writing – related to all subjects.
- Drawing activities – to enhance project work, related to topic work, specific art work....
- Learning activities – tables, spellings, test revision....
- Making tasks – models, games...
- Planning and research tasks – design briefs for DT, science
- Project-work tasks – completion and research....
- Reading Comprehension– all subjects, fiction and non-fiction.

Children can expect:-

- Teachers to plan and set homework directly related to their classroom studies and to aid development of appropriate study skills.
- Teachers to value the work presented and offer appropriate and helpful responses to aid future improvement. This may be through marking, discussion or other appropriate monitoring procedures.
- Teachers to explain homework tasks clearly
- Teachers to modify activities and set clear expectations and targets related to the ability of the child.
- Teachers to set clear deadlines.

Teachers can expect:-

- Pupils to do their best at all times, irrespective of ability.
- Pupils to ask for clarification and explanation of tasks before the end of the school day, should they require additional help.
- Pupils to take pride in the presentation of their work.
- Pupils to complete tasks within the time allocated.
- Pupils to meet deadlines.
- Pupils to be responsible for ensuring they have all equipment required for homework BEFORE they leave school.

Homework Timetable

Children in years 5/6 are expected, on a daily basis to: -

- Spend half an hour on concentrated, uninterrupted study on a set task.
- Spend a minimum of a quarter of an hour on reading.

At weekends children are required to: -

- Spend approximately an hour on set tasks
- To continue with a daily minimum of quarter of an hour reading.

Homework Schedule: This may change but includes the following:

Monday	Grammar Task/Reading Task/Reading Comprehension
Tuesday	Grammar Task/Reading Task/Reading Comprehension
Wednesday	Maths
Thursday	Grammar Task/Reading Task/Reading Comprehension
Friday	Topic or Literacy related tasks set over a period of weeks with an element of choice

This schedule may be adapted by individual teachers to suit the needs of their class or what is happening that week.

In Year 6, in the lead up to NCT tests, additional revision homework may be required.

On Google Classroom, spellings and some homework will be set. All children will have been shown how to login and given a password (which must be kept safe).

How can parents help?

- Provide a quiet place where your child can work uninterrupted with no television or gadgets!
- Take an interest in their work. Talk to them about how it relates to their work in class. Discuss ideas and approaches to the task, if this is appropriate, this will encourage them to understand their work and clarify thought processes.
- Encourage your child to take a pride in their work. Particularly in handwriting and presentation.

- If your child has a problem help them – but do not do it for them and let them copy.
 - Never give the direct answer to a maths problem. Go back to where your child first experienced difficulty and work forward step by step.
 - Be positive and encourage – be patient.
 - If this doesn't help, make a note in their homework diary and leave it to us!
- It is not always possible for staff to estimate exactly how long homework will take but we do try to ensure that tasks will not exceed half an hour during the week and an hour at weekends. It is therefore important that you encourage your child not to spend too much or too little time on homework.
- If your child has difficulties remaining on task, try using a timer or setting ten minute targets. Remember that when they start secondary school they are likely to have to complete half an hour's work on three different subjects each evening. It is therefore important that we help them to get the pace of working right now.
- If your child is poor at organising their work and equipment – including returning their homework and packing their bags for school, make sure that they do it in the evening before they go to bed. Do not do it for them – they will never learn to do it themselves! Remind them and support them until it becomes second nature to them.
- ❖ If children use the computer for word processing please encourage the use of spelling and grammar checks.
- ❖ If your child uses the computer for research do not allow them to simply print off pages of information or copy and paste, they must learn to be selective. They can either transfer relevant facts and photographs to a word document or type out a fact sheet. You can attach Power Points to Google Classroom but we are unable to print work for children.

DON'T FORGET WE ARE HERE TO HELP YOU AND YOUR CHILD. TELEPHONE US, AT SCHOOL, IF YOU HAVE A PROBLEM, WE WILL ALWAYS HELP IF WE CAN.