

**ELLESMERE  
PRIMARY SCHOOL**



Engage, Persevere, Succeed

**Homework Policy 2017-2018**

Review Date: January 2018

This policy has been devised after consultation with staff, parents and children.

## **1 Introduction – what is homework?**

Homework is anything that children do outside of the normal school day that contributes to their learning. Homework encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents/carers to support a child's learning.

## **2 Rationale for homework**

At Ellesmere Primary School we believe that homework is an integral part of learning. We believe that appropriate homework:

- encourages collaboration between children, teachers and parents
- develops the skills of independence that are so highly valued at our school
- allows all children the opportunity to consolidate and extend the learning that takes place at in school
- enables children to make improved progress in their academic and social development
- can provide educational experiences that are not available in school
- encourages children to take responsibility for their learning and develops working habits that will be required throughout their education

As well as believing in the importance of homework, we also acknowledge the importance of free time in a child's growth and development. Whilst homework is important, it should not be burdensome and should not have a negative impact upon a child's out of school activities.

In order for homework to have the most positive impact, it needs to be:

- enjoyable and rewarding for children
- age-appropriate and challenging
- linked to in-school themes
- fully supported by parents
- valued by children, parents and teachers
- responded to by the teacher

Homework is **not**:

- to be set without a clear purpose
- too time-consuming
- an add-on
- boring

In our school, it has been decided that homework will be set for all children, but with different expectations throughout the primary years.

Homework				
	Daily	Weekly	Half-termly	Other
<b>Nursery (F1)</b>	Story talk - Parent and child read and discuss a story together		Topic themed parent/child project	Parents regularly read to/wiht their children (Take Ten reading) Mathematics home activity cards - available in nursery
<b>Reception (F2)</b>	Story talk - Parent and child read and discuss a story together	Reading with an adult (decoding and comprehension) Two school reading books will be sent home each week	Topic themed parent/child project	Parents regularly read to/with their children Mathematics home activity cards - available in F2 classrooms
<b>Year 1</b>	Story talk/reading to an adult (decoding and comprehension) Counting /Rehearsal of number facts	Mathematics/Spelling/phonics activity  Two school reading books will be sent home each week	Topic themed parent/child project	Parents regularly read to/with their children  Mathletics
<b>Year 2</b>	Reading with an adult (decoding and comprehension)  Counting /Rehearsal of number facts/ times tables	Mathematics homework linked to in-class themes Spelling activity focusing on phonics/high frequency words/spelling/grammar rules Two school reading books will be sent home each week	Topic themed parent/child project	Parents regularly read to/with their children  Mathletics
<b>Year 3</b>	Story talk/reading to an adult (decoding and comprehension) Rehearsal of number facts/ times tables	Mathematics homework linked to in-class themes Spelling activity focusing on phonics/high frequency words/spelling/grammar rules	Topic themed parent/child project	Parents regularly read to/with their children  Mathletics
<b>Year 4</b>	Story talk/reading to an adult (decoding and comprehension)/ Independent reading Rehearsal of number facts/ times tables	Mathematics homework linked to in-class themes  Spelling activity focusing on phonics/high frequency words/spelling/grammar rules	Topic themed parent/child project	Parents regularly read to/with their children  Mathletics
<b>Year 5</b>	Story talk/reading to an adult (decoding and comprehension)/ Independent reading Rehearsal of number facts/ times tables	Mathematics homework linked to in-class themes  GPS (grammar, punctuation and spelling) activity linked to in-class themes	Topic themed parent/child project	Parents regularly read to/with their children Mathletics
<b>Year 6</b>	Story talk/reading to an adult (decoding and comprehension)/ Independent reading  Rehearsal of number facts/ times tables	Mathematics homework linked to in-class themes  GPS (grammar, punctuation and spelling) activity linked to in-class themes	Topic themed parent/child project	Parents regularly read to/with their children Mathletics Regular homework to support end of KS2 SATs The amount of homework set throughout the year will increase to prepare children for secondary transition

\*Every child in key stages 1 and 2 has access to a Mathletics account. This can be accessed at home and in school and is personalised to each child. Homework may be set using Mathletics, but children can also access it freely at home.

### **Additional information**

- Higher achieving children may occasionally be set additional homework.
- Children that find an objective difficult to achieve may be sent home with additional homework for that lesson.
- Specific class information (i.e. days that homework is set / to be given in) is available on the class web pages
- All children will be provided with a homework book that should be taken home and returned to school every day. Children are responsible for keeping their homework books tidy and well-presented.
- Most of the homework set for the children will be revision/application of what has been taught in school, so parental comments about the level of support needed are useful for teachers.
- If a child is having difficulties with homework, speak to the class teacher as soon as possible.
- All homework that is submitted will be marked in accordance with our marking policy.
- Homework set will be relevant to the children and will not be set in a tokenistic manner. The amount of homework may differ from week to week. Homework may require written evidence, but it may also be set without the need for a written response. We believe that children learn best through practical, meaningful contexts and, where possible, this will be encouraged.
- Our philosophy towards the keeping of deadlines is based upon positive reinforcement and praise for those that get homework in on time. In KS2 children may be asked to complete homework during a break time if a deadline is not kept in order for them to learn the importance of responsibility. We understand that there is often a need for flexibility, so parents are encouraged to communicate with teachers if there is a reason that homework cannot be completed on time.