

HAZELDENE SCHOOL



**HOMEWORK POLICY
REVISED NOVEMBER 2018**

SIGNED DATE.....

HEADTEACHER

SIGNED DATE

CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

TO BE REVIEWED NOVEMBER 2020

Hazeldene School

Homework Policy

What are the aims of this policy?

- To ensure a consistent approach to homework throughout the school.
- To ensure that teachers, parents and children have a clear understanding regarding expectations for homework.
- To ensure that teachers, parents and children are fully aware of the role they play with regard to homework.

What is the purpose of homework?

- To consolidate, reinforce and extend skills and understanding particularly in Literacy and Numeracy.
- To provide opportunities for parents and children to work together.
- To allow parents to gain an understanding of what children are learning in school.
- To allow children to progress towards becoming more independent learners.

What is the role of the school?

- To provide parents with a clear policy regarding homework.
- To ensure this policy is fully and consistently followed.
- To provide support for parents with information about homework.

What is the role of the teacher?

- To plan and set a programme of homework that is appropriate to the needs of the child.
- To ensure all children understand the homework they have been given.
- To give feedback about homework.
- To be available to talk to parents and children about homework.
- To inform parents if there is a problem regarding homework.

What is the role of the parent?

- To support the child in completing homework.
- To ensure the child completes homework to a high standard and hands it in on time.
- To provide the appropriate conditions for the child to complete the homework.
- To provide the appropriate resources for the child to complete the homework.

What is the role of the child?

- To ensure they have everything they need to complete homework each week.

- To make sure they understand the tasks that have been set.
- To put in the same level of effort as would be expected of class work.
- To hand the homework in on time.
- To take on board any feedback about homework.

Homework in Reception

Learning together is the emphasis for children in Reception. The activities are Literacy and Numeracy based with a strong emphasis on reading and learning about numbers together. It is an ideal time to lay the foundations for continuing work at home. At times there will be a simple topic based activity.

What type of work will my child get?

Reading

Parents will be informed of the themes, phonemes and high frequency words that the children are learning in school each half term.

Starting in the Autumn term and continuing all year, the main emphasis is on reading at home. This should be done in two ways.

- **Adults reading to children.**

Parents are encouraged to use the Library boxes in the reception classrooms. These boxes contain books that are suitable to read to children so they can get used to print and stories. Parents should encourage children to point to words as they are being read. Discussion about the books is also important.

- **Children reading to an adult.**

When they are ready to, children will start bringing simple books home to read to an adult. Again, encouraging the child to point to the words as they are being read is important. Discussing the story and the characters and asking questions about the book will help with the child's understanding of language.

Letter formation/Writing.

In the children's welcome pack the Reception teachers will provide parents with a sheet to support children with letter formation. This shows where to start and finish when forming each letter and what each letter should look like. Giving children the opportunity to practise forming letters and also developing drawing skills with a variety of different tools will give them valuable practice. The important thing is to watch them and correct any mistakes sensitively so they don't fall into bad habits.

Seasonal Activities.

Teachers may choose to send home ideas for activities that parents could complete with children to compliment in school tasks relating to specific times of the year.

Writing and Numeracy homework.

Each week the children will bring home their 'homework' book which will have letter formation or number formation as an activity to do at home. Homework will come home on a Friday and be returned to school on a Monday allowing for time to complete the letter and number formation over the weekend.

How much time should be spent on homework?

Reception	Approx 15 minutes per day (depending upon the child's level) on Literacy based activities including reading.
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Homework in Key Stage1.

For children in Key Stage One we encourage parents to work together with their child to support them with their homework. The emphasis remains on Literacy and reading but we include ways in which children can be supported with important Numeracy skills.

What type of work will my child get?

Reading.

Reading on a regular basis is vital when children are in year one and two. Children will bring their reading books home every evening and the role of the adult is to listen and support them. It is important to remind them to use different strategies to read new words, sounding out the word, looking at the pictures and looking for words within words are ways in which the child can read an unknown word. Just as important is discussing the book to check that the child has understood what they have read. Children will have a reading record which parents/carers should sign or comment in each time they read with the child.

Mental Maths

Teachers will send home a mental maths worksheet weekly. This will have five columns of questions to rehearse key skills. Children should complete one column a day and could be timed to see if they can get quicker. These cover the skills that pupils should achieve at the end of key stage 1:

- Children should be confident in their 2, 5 and 10 times tables. They should be able to say them in order and mixed up.
- Children should be able to double each number up to 20.
- Children should be able to halve each even number up to 20.
- Children should know their number bonds of all numbers up to 20. This means they should know how to make each number, for example 5 can be made by 0+5, 1+4, 2+3, 3+2, 4+1, 5+0
- Children should be able to tell the time when it is o'clock, half past, quarter to and quarter past on digital and analogue clocks.
- Children should be confident when using money. They should know the names of the coins and they should have experience of adding, taking away and finding change.

Year 2 - High Frequency Words/ Spelling.

Children will have daily phonics lessons throughout Key Stage 1 which will also include ways that children can build up a secure sight vocabulary. It is vital that children build up a bank of words which they can read and spell on sight. Children will bring home some words each week for them to read, write and learn these spellings will be based upon the phonemes the children are learning in class that week. Parents can help children to learn these by practising them regularly and often. Children will often receive the same words again in order to practise them further. Children should have the opportunity to practice their words over the summer holiday.

Take Home Tasks.

Teachers will set additional take home tasks three times a year. These will be 'pick and mix' homework tasks where pupils can pick one task from a selection of six activities linked to the current topic. These may include cooking tasks, art projects, getting active, maths and literacy foci. Take home tasks will have a longer completion time including a school holiday.

How much time should be spent on homework?

Year 1	10-15 minutes reading daily 15 minutes mental maths (over the course of 5 days)
Year 2	10-15 minutes reading daily 10 minutes spelling daily 15 minutes mental maths (over the course of 5 days)

Homework in Key Stage 2.

As children get older, homework provides an opportunity for them to develop the skill of independent learning. It is important that parents support their children but good habits of independent study should be encouraged.

The main focus for homework in Key Stage 2 continues to be Literacy and Numeracy however children will be given more varied tasks in other areas of the curriculum.

What type of work will my child get?

Reading.

Children may read to an adult, with an adult or read to themselves in the presence of an adult. The story and characters should be talked about and new words discussed. Older children need a clear understanding of the story that sometimes will go beyond the literal meaning of the text. Children will read texts that are more detailed and will take longer to read. They should be encouraged to read all types of texts including non-fiction.

Children in Key Stage 2 are responsible for filling in their reading record/homework diary every day and making sure it is in school.

Literacy/GPAS.

This will be based around what the children will be learning in class. The work could be based on spelling, punctuation and grammar. They may be asked to read something and answer questions. Sometimes the task will be a piece of writing.

Spellings.

Children will receive ten spellings to be learnt every week. These will link to key prefix, suffix or letter strings, or be linked to the Year 3 and 4 or Year 5 and 6 spelling lists from the National Curriculum.

Mental Maths.

Mental Maths

Teachers will send home a mental maths worksheet weekly. This will have five columns of questions to rehearse key skills. Children should complete one column a day and could be timed to see if they can get quicker. In Year 6, pupils complete a mental maths 'workout' quiz weekly. This will be marked in class so that pupils get immediate feedback.

Take Home Tasks.

Teachers will set additional take home tasks three times a year. These will be 'pick and mix' homework tasks where pupils can pick one task from a selection of six activities linked to the current topic. These may include cooking tasks, art projects, getting active, maths and literacy foci. Take home tasks will have a longer completion time including a school holiday.

How much time should be spent on homework?

Year 3	10 minutes reading, 5x per week. 1 x 20 minute task in Literacy/GPAS every other week, 5 minutes spelling daily 20 minutes Mental Maths (split over 5 days)
Year 4	10 minutes reading, 5x per week. 1 x 30 minute task in Literacy/GPAS every other week, 5 minutes spelling daily 20 minutes Mental Maths (split over 5 days)
Year 5	10 minutes reading, 5x per week. 1 x 30 minute task in Literacy/GPAS, 5 minutes spelling daily 20 minutes Mental Maths (split over 5 days)
Year 6	10 minutes reading, 5x per week. 1 x 30 minute task in Literacy/GPAS, 5 minutes spelling daily 1 x 30 minute mental maths workout

Times Table Rock Stars

All pupils in Years 2-6 will have access to Times Table Rock Stars. This is a fun way to improve recall of key multiplication and division facts. Children will benefit greatly from a 'little and often' approach to TTRS, and we would recommend pupils spend 5-10 minutes a day using TTRS.

How can parents find out more information about homework?

Each year group will inform the parents about homework in the termly curriculum booklets. Additional information may be shared via ClassDojo. Teachers will have different systems for handing in homework and they will tell parents and children about this at the beginning of the year. If parents need advice on how to support their children with homework then they can talk to the class teacher.

Why will children sometimes be given extra homework?

Children who take part in specialised lessons such as Rapid Read, Sounds Write and Numbers Count classes may sometimes be set extra homework to reinforce the work being done. In this case, children should complete this work alongside their normal homework unless the child or the parents have been told otherwise. If the child is finding they have too much work then parents should speak to the child's teacher or the person running the extra sessions. Children can also complete extra tasks on Purple Mash or work towards maths and spelling badges if they would like to challenge themselves further.

What if a child says they have received no homework?

If there is any reason why a child will not receive homework then the teacher will inform parents via ClassDojo. If parents have not received a message, then they should check with the child's teacher. There may be occasions if the teacher is away that the homework is not set but we will try to avoid that happening.

How will the homework be marked?

Teachers will mark children's homework in a variety of ways but always according to the school's marking policy. Generally the work will be initialled by the teacher to show they have marked it. Sometimes the work will be 'quality marked'. This is when a piece of work is marked in detail and comments about future progress are added to the work. On other occasions the work may be marked orally with the child or the class and there will not be evidence from the teacher in the child's book. Homework will be kept in a separate folder.

What if a child does not complete their homework?

All children will be expected to complete their homework every week. If a child does NOT complete their homework and there is no valid reason given by the parent the child will be expected to stay in at lunchtimes/playtimes to complete this.

To support pupils in completing homework tasks to deadlines, for Key Stage 2 (Years 3-6) there is a homework club twice a week, run by SLT members. On Fridays, pupils may volunteer to attend the homework club to complete homework tasks and take the opportunity to use the school laptops to access Times Table Rock Stars and Purple Mash. On Wednesdays, pupils who have missed the homework deadline will be invited to catch up on tasks.