

Vernon Primary School

Homework Policy



Introduction

Learning at home is an essential part of effective education and gives pupils the opportunity to effectively extend and enrich the learning that takes place within school. Homework also encourages children to become confident and independent in their learning, an essential skill for their progression throughout school and later in adult life. All children are expected to take part in a variety of homework tasks to enhance, consolidate and support their learning, as well as give them the opportunity to bring their learning alive in contexts beyond the school. At Vernon Primary School, we recognise that pupils who have spent a busy structured day at school need time not only to relax and unwind at the end of the afternoon, but also to actively participate in a range of extra-curricular, out-of-school activities to broaden their experiences, such as instrumental tuition, swimming lessons, drama groups, sports clubs etc.

This homework policy is designed:

- To ensure a consistency of approach throughout the school.
- To ensure progression towards independence and individual responsibility.
- To ensure parents/carers have a clear understanding about expectations for themselves and the pupils.
- To extend, enrich, consolidate and support learning.
- To provide opportunities for parents and pupils to work in partnership and enjoy a range of learning experiences.

Progression of homework throughout the school:

The nature and range of homework will change as children progress through the school and will always take into account individual needs and interests. For all children at Vernon Primary School, developing a partnership with parents and carers and involving them actively in children's learning is integral to a child's academic and personal development.

In Reception and Key Stage 1, short, varied activities (reading together, sharing a book, practising key words, counting objects and practising number skills) provide a wonderful opportunity for young children to talk about what they are learning with an adult and to practise key skills in a familiar, supportive environment.

As children progress through the school, homework provides an opportunity to further develop the skills needed for lifelong, independent learning. Homework is differentiated when appropriate, taking account of individual pupils' needs and interests.

Homework opportunities for all year groups throughout the school are outlined below:

Year group	Homework Activity
Reception	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phonics activity sent home weekly. • Keyrings sent home, once pupils are ready for this. • Share a book.
Year 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phonics activity sent out weekly. • Reading or sharing a book.
Year 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phonics activity sent out weekly. • Regular reading. • Any additional opportunities to enrich and consolidate learning may be included on a Year 2 '<i>Extension & Enrichment Activities</i>' page on the school website and can be used at the discretion and choice of pupils, parents and carers.
Year 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular reading. • English activity (including comprehension at least monthly) every two weeks (alternate with Maths) • Practical Maths activity every two weeks (alternate with English). • Times table practise weekly, with a focus on a specific times table. • Any additional opportunities to enrich and consolidate learning will be included on the Year 3 '<i>Extension & Enrichment Activities</i>' page on the school website and can be used at the discretion and choice of pupils, parents and carers.
Year 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular reading. • English activity (including comprehension at least monthly) every two weeks (alternate with Maths) • Maths activity every two weeks (alternate with English). • Times table practise weekly, with a focus on a specific times table. • Any additional opportunities to enrich and consolidate learning will be included on the Year 4 '<i>Extension & Enrichment Activities</i>' page on the school website and can be used at the discretion and choice of pupils, parents and carers.
Year 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular reading • Reading comprehension activity (in addition to English homework below) every two weeks • Maths or English homework activity each week (alternate). • Any additional opportunities to enrich and consolidate learning will be included on the Year 5 '<i>Extension & Enrichment Activities</i>' page on the school website and can be used at the discretion and choice of pupils, parents and carers.
Year 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular reading and use of the 'Year 6 planner'. • Reading comprehension activity weekly • English homework activities weekly to consolidate and practise key skills. • Maths homework weekly. • Any additional opportunities to enrich and consolidate learning will be included on the Year 6 '<i>Extension & Enrichment Activities</i>' page on the school website and can be used at the discretion and choice of pupils, parents and carers.

How staff at Vernon Primary support this policy:

- by providing a range of creative homework tasks and activities to consolidate, extend and enrich learning;
- by ensuring that the children have a clear understanding of the tasks involved and a common understanding of the high expectations held of them individually, according to their own needs;
- by creating a positive ethos and approach to homework, encouraging children to extend their learning out of school and providing realistic, fair time-frames in which to complete activities at home;
- by communicating with parents and keeping them regularly informed of children's progress, projects and topics to be explored.

How parents can help to support children:

- provide a comfortable, familiar setting for children to carry out homework activities;
- provide encouragement, praise and support to children when they require it;
- support the school in explaining to children the value and purpose of homework;
- enjoy being part of children's learning at home, by sharing interests, talking about activities and encouraging collaborative learning;
- communicate with the teacher on a regular basis, providing written or verbal feedback on homework activities.

Pupils are expected to:

- make use of the regular opportunities they are given to extend their learning at home;
- approach homework activities with a positive attitude;
- take pride in presentation and content;
- talk to their teacher and parents/carers if they feel they need support or further discussion about their homework activities;
- take responsibility for sharing their completed homework with their parents/carers and teachers.
- be proud of their achievements outside of the school context.

Feedback for pupils, parents or carers and teachers

It is important that feedback is given to pupils in a number of ways:

- verbally by parents, carers and teachers;
- discussion in class about homework when it is an extension or consolidation of their learning;
- individual comment from teacher on written homework activities;
- peer evaluation and praise in the classroom about homework activities completed;
- presentation of homework in class and school assemblies.

At Vernon Primary School, we value feedback from pupils, parents and carers about homework activities to ensure the home-school partnership is further strengthened and that children's learning at home is both enjoyable and beneficial.

Policy date – July 2020

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