

Fourlanesend Primary School – Homework Policy

This policy is based on government guidelines which emphasise the importance of homework and how it helps your child to learn, rather than focussing on the amount of time it takes to complete. However the guidelines also say how much time pupils might reasonably be expected to spend on homework. While most parents appreciate the value and importance of homework, a few feel that we do not set enough homework and others feel that there is too much. The amount and type of homework we set is at a level which most people feel is reasonable and is in line with Department for Education guidelines.

Why is homework important?

- It raises your children's achievement.
- It consolidates and extends the work they have done in school.
- It helps to inform you about your children's school work and allows and gives you the opportunity to support this work.
- It is a valuable life skill and develops good work habits for secondary school and future employment.

What sort of activities should children be doing?

Our homework activities are related to the work your children are doing at school but will not always be written work.

For young children it will usually be:

- Reading with parents or carers.
- Games or activities to practice English, maths or other skills.

For older children, homework may also include:

- Reading.
- Preparing a presentation to the class.
- Finding out information.
- Designing or making something.
- Trying out a simple scientific experiment.
- Solving problems.
- Completing English, maths or other work.

What homework should my child be doing?

This varies with different classes but you will be informed at the beginning of each half term.

Feedback on your child's homework

The children need to know how well they have done and what they could do better. Sometimes work will be discussed in lessons, or teachers may give written comments on just one or two aspects of a piece of work. If a child has difficulties with a piece of homework, they should discuss it with their teacher or you might wish to discuss the problem with us yourself.

Should I help my child with homework?

Homework allows you to see what your children are doing and to support their learning. This partnership between school and home is a vital part of successful education. We

take the view that children are likely to get more out of an activity if parents get involved - as long as they do not take over too much!

If you are unsure about how much help to give, you should discuss it with your child's teacher. They will be pleased to see you and will help you to get the balance right.

What happens if my child does not complete their homework?

In order to ensure that every child has the same learning opportunities, it is expected that all children complete **all** homework for the due date given. If this does not happen in Years 2-6, this will be recorded in the class behaviour book and the children will see the head teacher. The children will be required to complete the homework at homework club to ensure they have the same opportunities to make progress as everyone else. If the standard of homework does not match the expectation of the child they will be asked to repeat it. Repeated failure to submit homework will result in a meeting with parents, children and the head teacher.

On the rare occasions when personal circumstances mean that homework is not completed, you need to speak to the class teacher.

12 things you can do to help your child learn

1. Give your child confidence through lots of praise and encouragement.
 - *You have tremendous power to strengthen your child's confidence - and confidence is vital to learning.*
 - *Provide specific praise that focuses on a particular aspect of their work. Comments such as "I like the way you have..." is more effective than "you're clever".*
2. Read to, and with, your child as much as possible.
 - *We encourage parents and carers to read to children, hear them read, or encourage them to read to themselves, for at least 20 minutes a day.*
3. Encourage your child to observe and talk about what they see, feel, think etc.
 - *Even young children can be helped to read notices and signs, for example, and understand what they mean.*
4. Make use of your school library and local library.
 - *Look out for special events and services for children.*
5. Visit museums and other places you think your child might find interesting.
 - *Children now have free admission to major national museums and art galleries.*
6. If your child likes watching television, watch it together sometimes and talk about what has been watched. Children enjoy sharing their experiences and will gain a lot from the discussion.
7. Try to provide a reasonably quiet and suitable place where your child can work and show that you and all members of the family value and respect the homework activity.
8. Try to set time aside to support your child's homework activities whilst also allowing some independence where appropriate.
9. Encourage your child to discuss homework with you, including feedback from teachers.
10. Try to help your child to see the enjoyable aspects of homework.
11. Help your child to see the importance of homework and teach them to become more independent and take more responsibility for themselves as they get older.
12. Remind your child to complete and hand in homework on time.

Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns. We want your children to succeed.

Homework

All homework appears on the website under your child's class. Your child will also have the details given to them of what they need to complete.

Plym & Cremyll

Foundation

Foundation children are expected to read 5 times a week and this is to be recorded in the reading record. Children will receive their first reading book once the first set of phonic sounds has been completed in class. Other topic based homework may be given and parents will be notified as appropriate.

Year 1 & Year 2

Children in year 1 & 2 are expected to read 5 times a week and to discuss what they have read to build on their comprehension skills, as well as, improving their word knowledge. This should be recorded in your child's reading record. Either a Maths or an English-based activity will be given out on a Friday and expected in on a Thursday. Other topic based homework or whole-school homework may be given and parents will be notified as appropriate. Children will be given spellings to learn each week.

Tamar

Spellings will be given out on a Friday to be practised in a book. This will be checked and a test given on the following Friday.

Children will be expected to practice times tables as all children need to be fluent in these as well as their corresponding division facts.

Yr 3 – 3, 4 & 8 times tables.

Yr 4 – All times tables.

All children in class Tamar need to read at least 10 minutes a day and record this with an adult's signature in their reading journals, or if they are particularly fluent readers they will be asked to discuss their reading with an adult for the same amount of times. This will also be checked each Friday and will contribute towards their Book Quest certificates. Whole school homework will also be given to link in with whole school topics as well as local/national/global events.

Occasionally children will be given 'answers on a postcard' homework. These are research/investigation/creative homeworks that contribute to their learning. These will involve English or Maths activities. English and Maths homework will be set occasionally for practice of methods, given out on a Friday and handed in the following Thursday.

Lynher

English homework will be given out on a Tuesday and will be due in the following Monday. Spellings will be given out on a Wednesday to be practised on a handwriting sheet. This will be checked and a test given on the following Wednesday. Maths homework is given out on a Friday and needs to be handed in the following Thursday. All children need to be fluent in their recall of times tables by the end of year 4. If they have not achieved this, additional work on these will be given. All children in class Lynher need to read at least 5 times a week and record this with an adult's signature in their reading journals, or if they are particularly fluent readers they will be asked to discuss their reading with an adult for the same amount of times. This will also be checked each Friday and will contribute towards their Book Quest certificates. Whole school homework will also be given to link with whole school topics as well as local/national/global events.

Reading

Children are expected to read at home daily as it is an essential tool to aid all their learning. Positive comments should be recorded after each reading session in your child's reading record. In class Lynher and Tamar children will be expected to read Friday lunchtime if they do not complete and bring in their signed reading journal.

Fourlanesend Values:

- Respect and Responsibility
- Enthusiasm for Learning
- Confidence
- Honesty
- Kindness

These are integrated and embedded throughout homework set.

Reviewed: September 2018

Next review: Autumn Term 2019