



# Ashford Oaks Primary School

## Policy for Homework

### Introduction

Perhaps the greatest impact that we can have on how our children achieve is to spend time and talk to them. Not just “How was your day?” or “What would you like for tea?” but talking about a variety of things (people, places, actions, feelings, objects, experiences and past and future events). Families that talk a lot about lots of different things are called ‘talkalot families’. Children from ‘talk a lot’ families have received 1700 hours of 1 to 1 story time by the age of three and have heard 33 million words. Children from non talk a lot families only receive 25hrs of story time and have only heard 9 million words. **Talking** is an important piece of homework.

Homework is anything that children do outside the normal school day that contributes to their learning in school. Homework encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents to support children’s learning. For example, a parent who spends time reading a story to their child before bedtime is helping with homework.

HOMEWORK is designed to consolidate or to extend work covered in school and to develop a habit of private study where the child will be given the opportunity to work by him/herself without immediate recourse to teacher, parents or other pupils

The National Curriculum places some emphasis on independent learning. In line with this children of Primary School age need to have time set aside in school for this to be developed. They will have worked hard during the day and, therefore, homework should be kept to a minimum. All children need time to rest and relax. They must have time for hobbies and other interest, e.g. music, swimming, dancing, drama, sport, Brownies and Cubs. All of these are worthwhile learning experiences in their own right and compliment the children's scholastic activities, thus furthering the educational development of the whole child, which is one of the aims of our school.

### Aims and Objectives

The aims and objectives of homework are:

- To enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development.
- To help pupils develop the skills of an independent learner.
- To promote a partnership between home and school in supporting each child’s learning.
- To promote positive dialogue between child and parent about their learning raising self-esteem.
- To consolidate and reinforce learning done in school and to allow children to practice skills taught in lessons.
- To help children develop good work habits for the future.

Homework at Ashford Oaks is given according to the age, ability and needs of the pupils. It should always be discussed and negotiated with them. Homework can take different forms. It could be a written assignment or a piece of research in connection with an ongoing topic in class, tables or spellings, a short poem to be learnt by heart etc. It could mean bringing in work, learning words and reading to parents/guardians some of their home reading book. For all pupils READING is the most important and valuable piece of homework, together with talking to and listening to parents and grandparents and using them and their knowledge as a resource. Reading, for those children who are more able, need not be aloud to a listener. However, it is important to discuss books with these children - re-telling the story so far, predicting what might happen next, deciding why a certain passage was particularly funny/sad/difficult to understand etc.

Excessive homework will never be given. It leads to late nights, frustration for parents and children - the latter arriving in school next day, tired and disinterested. Homework is never given as a punishment. Sometimes children will be given work to finish at home if the teacher feels that they repeatedly ignored support in the classroom or failed to respond to prompts to concentrate on the work in hand.

### **Ways in which parents can help**

Parents have vital role to play in their child's education, and homework is an important part of this process. We ask parents to encourage their child to complete the homework tasks that are set. We invite them to help their children as they feel necessary and provide them with the sort of environment that allows children to do their best. Parents can support their child by providing a good working space at home, by enabling their child to visit the library regularly, and by discussing the work that their child is doing. You can help your child by:

- Listening to reading
- Paired reading so as to promote the enjoyment of reading for pleasure.
- Checking presentation, handwriting and spelling.
- Testing what has been set to be learnt by heart e.g. spelling, tables, poem etc.
- Most important of all talking to and listening to what their child has to say and supporting and encouraging him/her in every way.

If parents have any problems or questions about homework, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher.

### **The Teachers Role**

In setting homework the teacher needs to allow sufficient time for the task/s to be completed satisfactorily and take into account the marking arrangements where necessary. In some cases children will be unable to do their homework through no fault of their own. The teacher will therefore have to be sympathetic and use his/her own judgement in each case. As with all written work, homework should be dated. Each teacher should let parents know of the homework intentions via the year group newsletter. Parents will also be made aware through newsletters of support we can offer in helping children access homework tasks.

## Types of Homework

- Developing reading skills are essential and a child's attitude and ability to read has an impact on all other areas of learning. Children are given a reading book to share with their parent but children are encouraged to read different texts from all areas of their life.
- The teaching staff will help direct the choice of genre and difficulty level of text and whilst children are encouraged to choose texts from outside school we expect a balance between the reading book issued by the school and free choice through the week.
- 'Hooked on Books' is our own scheme which encourages our children to read for pleasure. When the children have read a book, they get a square signed off on their passport. They can earn Bronze, Silver and Gold certificates by reading a number of books.
- Maths homework, which could be 'Maths Learn Its' or Maths worksheets.
- Weekly spellings
- Choice Homework- The children have a choice of 9 activities over the term. The expectation is that they complete 3 activities, however can do more if they wish.

Nursery	We do not set formal homework in nursery. However we encourage parents to read stories and talk to their child about a variety of things. We also really appreciate parental involvement in mini projects (which may happen if desired by the children) and in regularly completing online learning journeys.
Reception	In reception the children half way through the year join the rest of the school and take part in 'Hooked on Books'. We also really appreciate parental involvement in mini projects (which will happen at appropriate times during the year) and in regularly completing online learning journeys.
Year 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Continuing reading through 'Hooked on Books'</li> <li>✓ Spellings which will be sent home on a Friday and tested the following Friday.</li> <li>✓ Recall 'learn – it' facts in preparation for a mental maths recall test every Friday.</li> <li>✓ Choice Homework</li> </ul>
Year 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Continuing reading through 'Hooked on Books'</li> <li>✓ Spellings which will be sent home on a Friday and tested the following Friday.</li> <li>✓ Recall 'learn – it' facts (Big Maths Test) in preparation for a mental maths recall test every Friday.</li> <li>✓ Choice Homework</li> </ul>
Year 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Continuing reading through 'Hooked on Books'</li> <li>✓ Spellings which will be sent home on a Friday and tested on the following Friday.</li> <li>✓ Recall 'learn – it' facts in preparation for a mental maths recall test every Friday.</li> <li>✓ Choice Homework</li> </ul>
Year 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Continuing reading through 'Hooked on Books'</li> <li>✓ Spellings which will be sent home on a Friday and tested on the following Friday.</li> <li>✓ Recall 'learn – it' facts in preparation for a mental maths recall test every Friday.</li> <li>✓ Choice Homework</li> </ul>

Year 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Continuing reading through 'Hooked on Books'</li> <li>✓ Spellings which will be sent home weekly and tested a week later.</li> <li>✓ A maths arithmetic question sheet(s)</li> <li>✓ Choice Homework</li> </ul>
Year 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Continuing reading through 'Hooked on Books'</li> <li>✓ Spellings and Maths will be sent home on a Wednesday and tested/due in on the following Tuesday.</li> <li>✓ Choice Homework</li> </ul>

A medal will be awarded during each end of term 'prize giving', to the child in each year group who has shown exceptional efforts toward their homework. A weekly reward will be given to each class who has the greatest number of children reading regularly at home and who score the highest in their spelling tests.

At Ashford Oaks we recognise that all adults need high expectations of our children if they are to approach their lives in a positive and ambitious way. If a child is persistently refusing to complete their homework we will support parents to ensure their children benefit and realise their responsibility.

### **Monitoring and Review**

It is the responsibility of our governing body to agree and then monitor the school homework policy. This is done by the Learning and Development Team.