

Vernon Primary School



Homework Policy

Introduction

Learning at home is an essential part of effective education and gives children 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 children 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 children.
- To extend, enrich, consolidate and support learning.
- To provide opportunities for parents/carers 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 opportunities for all year groups throughout the school are outlined below:

Year Group	Homework
Reception	• A reading practice book – this will match their phonic phase of learning. They should be able to read this fluently and independently. • A sharing book - this book is for parent/carers to share alongside your child and enjoy together. • Suggested activities to develop children's practical experiences with mathematics, such as sequencing numbers, counting objects. • Access phonics ebooks using the Collins elibrary to support phonics learning in the classroom.
Year 1	• A reading practice book – this will match their phonic phase of learning. They should be able to read this fluently and independently. • A sharing book - this book is for parent/carers to share alongside your child and enjoy together. • Interactive Maths websites (see our links to learning website page) that the children can use independently to support them in basic number skills. • Any optional additional opportunities to enrich and consolidate learning will be included on the Year 1 'Extension & Enrichment Activities' page on the school website and can be used at the discretion and choice of children, parents and carers. • Access phonics ebooks using the Collins elibrary to support phonics learning in the classroom.

Year 2	• A reading practice book – this will match their phonic phase of learning. They should be able to read this fluently and independently. • A sharing book - this book is for parent/carers to share alongside your child and enjoy together. • Interactive Maths websites (see our links to learning website page) that the children can use independently to support them in basic number skills. This includes the introduction of Times Table Rockstars (TTRS). • Any optional additional opportunities to enrich and consolidate learning will be included on the Year 2 '<i>Extension & Enrichment Activities</i>' page on the school website and can be used at the discretion and choice of children, parents and carers.
Year 3	• Regular reading of an age-appropriate book that matches the child's ability to decode and comprehend a text. Reading should be recorded in the children's 'Reading Journal' and the accompanying writing task completed weekly. • Times table practise weekly, with a focus on a specific times table. Children have access to Times Tables Rock Stars to support their independent learning of their times tables. • Spelling Shed – children have access to a spelling platform online that enables them to practise and apply words. • Any optional 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 children, parents and carers.
Year 4	• Regular reading of an age-appropriate book that matches the child's ability to decode and comprehend a text. Reading should be recorded in the children's 'Reading Journal' and the accompanying writing task completed weekly. • Use of 'Learning by Questions' activities to engage children in consolidating their learning from the classroom on a regular basis. • These will include Maths or English homework activity each week (alternate), including comprehension activities. • Times table practice weekly, with a focus on a specific times table. Children have access to Times Tables Rock Stars to support their independent learning of their times tables. • Spelling Shed – children have access to a spelling platform online that enables them to practise and apply words. • Any optional 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 children, parents and carers.
Year 5	• Regular reading of an age-appropriate book that matches the child's ability to decode and comprehend a text. Reading should be recorded in the children's 'Reading Journal' and the accompanying writing task completed weekly. • Use of 'Learning by Questions' activities to engage children in consolidating their learning from the classroom on a regular basis. ▪ These will include Maths or English homework activity each week (alternate), including comprehension activities. • Spelling Shed – children have access to a spelling platform online that enables them to practise and apply words. • Times table practice regularly using Times Tables Rock Stars to support their consolidation and application of their times tables. • Any optional 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 children, parents and carers.

Year 6	• Regular reading of an age-appropriate book that matches the child's ability to decode and comprehend a text. Reading should be recorded in the children's 'Reading Journal' and the accompanying writing task completed weekly. • Use of 'Learning by Questions' activities to engage children in consolidating their learning from the classroom on a regular basis. These will include: ▪ Reading comprehension or grammar activity weekly, and ▪ Maths activity weekly. • Spelling Shed – children have access to a spelling platform online that enables them to practise and apply words. • Any optional additional opportunities to enrich and consolidate learning will be included on the Year 6 'Extension & Enrichment Activities' page on the school website and can be used at the discretion and choice of pupils, parents and carers.
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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/carers and keeping them regularly informed of children's progress, projects and topics to be explored.

How parents/carers 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 children, 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/submitted 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 children, 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.

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