



# **KINETON GREEN PRIMARY SCHOOL**

## **HOMEWORK POLICY**

**October 2015**

**Revise October 2018**

**INTRODUCTION**

Homework is an established strand of the work of Kineton Green Primary School and experience suggests that school staff and parents value the opportunity to share both the responsibility for, and information about children's learning. It is required that we have a clear policy for homework with outlined guidance for parents, and its contents will be reinforced in the annual cycle of meetings between school and parents.

## **HOMEWORK AT KINETON GREEN**

We define 'homework' as any task children are requested to do outside school hours, which extends, provides practice or prepares for school activities.

## **THE PURPOSE OF HOMEWORK**

It is our intention that homework will:-

- develop an effective partnership between school and home :
  - supporting consistent expectation
  - giving guidance to parents
  - providing parents with information about current learning
- extend school learning
- provide practice for developing skills and understanding
- draw on the rich resource of homes
- promote the development of self-discipline and positive attitude needed for successful study throughout life.

## **CONTENT OF THE HOMEWORK PROGRAMME**

The staff of Kineton Green Primary School follow Government recommendations that homework at Key Stage 1 should take approximately 1 hour each week, and at Key Stage 2 range between 1½ hours and 2½ hours per week.

The primary focus of homework for the children of Kineton Green Primary School will be English and Mathematics, with additional research opportunities for topic work.

## **THE SCHOOL WILL HELP BY :-**

- setting regular tasks so a workable pattern of expectation develops
- giving sufficient time for tasks to be completed so that personal after school activities can be enjoyed
- valuing the contributions made by children via a range of feedback including verbal feedback, praise, written feedback, peer assessment, self assessment and next step targets (where appropriate).

- offering sufficient guidance for tasks to be successfully achieved
- setting homework tasks which are flexible and meet the needs of all pupils regardless of race, gender or disability

### **PARENTS CAN HELP BY :-**

- regularly providing a few peaceful minutes when children can think, discuss and question
- making clear that homework is thought of as important
- showing an interest and giving support
- offering encouragement and praise on completion

As partnership is the philosophy behind the Homework Policy and the Home/School Agreement (appendix 1) we believe that parents will wish to keep informed in order to offer appropriate support. The school will provide, when necessary, workshops, displays and information materials to explain current practice, alongside the termly topic information. However homework will not require parents to teach new ideas. Staff will be happy to give further details where needed and will pursue the support of all parents in the interest of children's progress.

Throughout this policy document we have used 'parents' to cover the range of carers who support our children.

Please see appendices 2, 3 and 4 for details on how parents can support their children.

### **HOMEWORK ACTIVITIES MAY INCLUDE :-**

#### **FS1 AND FS2**

- Share home and school library books
- Talk about school activities
- Take home teddy/diary
- Contribute to topic displays/activities
- Practise self-independence skills
- Support learning of key words from the Oxford Reading Tree scheme (FS2)
- Complete occasional topic related tasks

#### **YEAR 1 AND YEAR 2**

##### **1 hour weekly**

- Share home loan and school library books
- Practise key spellings as in Literacy programme of work
- Support learning of key words from the Oxford Reading Tree scheme
- Talk about school activities
- Research topics using home discussion/library/ICT

- Complete occasional book reviews – for the library
- Complete maths activities
- Complete literacy activities

### **YEAR 3 AND YEAR 4**

**1 ½ hours weekly**

#### **Literacy**

- Share home loan and school library books
- Complete occasional book reviews - for the library
- Practise spellings which may be either key spellings or those related to topic work
- Hear and record reading in diary minimum of 3 times per week. Children should record in their books and parents to sign this.
- Consolidation of literacy work currently being covered in class.

#### **Mathematics**

Either:-

- mental mathematics which may consist of learning number bonds and multiplication tables as guided by the teacher

or

- a mathematics game/puzzle/investigation

or

- consolidation of maths work currently being covered in class

#### **Topic/Curriculum**

- Occasional topic related task which may be linked to Science, History, Geography etc. This may involve collecting data, researching topics using home discussion/library/computer skills
- Practising for the wider opportunities music program (Year 4 only)

### **YEAR 5 AND YEAR 6**

**2 ½ hours weekly**

#### **Literacy**

- Reading daily from home/school library books and from wider reading matter e.g. magazines, newspapers, fiction novels and non-fiction recording by pupils in diary; signed weekly by parents
- Practise spellings which may be related to spelling investigations/current word study or to the topic
- Consolidation of literacy work currently being covered in class.

#### **Mathematics**

Either:-

- Mental mathematics which may consist of multiplication tables, work on fractions, percentages and decimals as guided by the teacher

or

- A mathematics game/puzzle/investigation

or

- Consolidation of maths work currently being covered in class

## **Topic/Curriculum**

- Occasional topic related task which may be linked to the current ILP (Imaginative Learning Project), Science, History or Geography etc. This may involve collecting data, researching topics using home discussion/library/computer skills, preparing for debates and presentations.

## **Pupils not completing homework:**

The school's stance is that although homework is not statutory it is of benefit to pupils and the expectation is it will be completed weekly.

- Staff will keep a record of homework received.
- If pupils are regularly not completing homework staff will liaise with parents in the first instance informally and in the second instance formally at a parents meeting.
- If parents do not wish their child to complete home work then they will need to send written confirmation into school.
- KS2 pupils not completing homework (if parents have not sent in written confirmation) will be asked to complete it at lunchtime supervised by staff covering red card duty.

# HOME - SCHOOL AGREEMENT

## 1. The Family

I/We will

- See that my/our child goes to school regularly, on time and properly equipped;
- Avoid holidays during term time;
- Make sure I/we provide an explanation if my/our child is absent;
- Inform the school about any concerns or problems that might affect my/our child's work or behaviour;
- Support my/our child in homework and other opportunities for home learning;
- Support my/our child in following the school's values '5 Bees';
- Attend parents' meetings, workshops, consultations and discussions about my/our child's progress whenever possible;
- Discuss with my/our child the behaviour expected of him/her;
- Be involved in my/our child's life at school.

Name of Child _____
Signature(s) of Parent(s)/Guardian(s) _____
_____
Date _____

## 2. The School will:

- Promote the achievement of full potential of your child;
- Provide a balanced curriculum and meet the individual needs of your child;
- Encourage children to take care of their surroundings and others around them;
- Inform parents about any concerns or problems that affect their child's work or behaviour;
- Arrange parents' meetings, workshops and consultations;
- Keep parents informed about school activities through newsletters and notices about special events;
- Be open and welcoming at all times and offer opportunities for you to become involved in the daily life of the school.

Signature (Headteacher) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature (Chair of Governors) \_\_\_\_\_

## Homework Help for Foundation Stage

Children can find homework interesting and fun – or dull and annoying. However, doing homework is important – it makes a difference to learning. Knowing how to get involved in ways that work for you and your child can really help. We hope that the following “handy hints” are useful in enabling homework to be a positive experience for you both.

If you have any concerns, please let your child’s teacher know, either by commenting in the word book or reading diary, or making an appointment.

### Time and Place

Agree a sensible, quiet place and time for homework. There is no right answer here just try to choose a time when you are both relaxed and not too tired. Some children may be better first thing in the morning, others straight after school. The most important thing is that your child can concentrate and you can be available to support them. Aim to make the experience a time you can enjoy together.

### Reading Together

- Reading should take place at least three or four times a week.
- Reading together can also involve telling stories, you reading to your child, reading print in the world around you, eg labels on tins and visits to the library. Try and include a variety of texts as even comics can spark off an interest in reading!
- When you are listening to your child, read the “reading book” from school, start by looking at the cover of the book and talk about the book first.
- As your child reads, encourage your child to find clues in the pictures to help them with new words, encourage them to try to guess what a new word might be by looking at the text, help them with any sounds they know and don’t be afraid to read the words for them if that helps with the flow.
- Ask them questions and talk about the book to help them understand what they have read. Can they tell you anything about the characters in the book? Or what they think might happen next?

### Other homework activities

- Look at the high frequency words your child has to learn. Help sound them out using their phonics to help. Practice regularly to help them read it by sight.
- Your child will benefit from shared time with an adult to help them to learn their words/spellings.  
Let your child’s teacher know how much help you gave by adding one of the following symbols:
  - ☺ Means that your child found the homework O.K.
  - ☹ Means that your child found some of the homework quite challenging
  - ☹☹ Means that your child found the homework really difficult and might need some extra help
- Sometimes the tasks won’t be on the homework sheets and won’t need any written response, for example, “on your way home look and see if you can spot any patterns on the door numbers of the houses (looking for odd and even numbers)”
- Homework (words) will be set on a Friday and tested weekly on a Thursday.

Your support is vital; please help us to help your child, by extending their learning beyond the classroom. Thank you.

Children can find homework interesting and fun – or dull and annoying. However, doing homework is important – it makes a difference to learning. Knowing how to get involved in ways that work for you and your child can really help. We hope that the following “handy hints” are useful in enabling homework to be a positive experience for you both.

All homework given at Kineton Green relates to the learning covered in class that week so your child should be able to complete the tasks set. If you have any concerns, please let your child’s teacher know, either by commenting in the homework book, or making an appointment.

### Time and Place

Agree a sensible, quiet place and time for homework. There is no right answer here just try to choose a time when you are both relaxed and not too tired. Some children may be better first thing in the morning, others straight after school. The most important thing is that your child can concentrate and you can be available to support them. Aim to make the experience a time you can enjoy together.

### Reading Together

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- As your child reads, encourage your child to find clues in the pictures to help them with new words, encourage them to try to guess what a new word might be by looking at the text, help them with any sounds they know and don’t be afraid to read the words for them if that helps with the flow.
- Ask them questions and talk about the book to help them understand what they have read. Can they tell you anything about the characters in the book? Or what they think might happen next?
- However, reading together can also involve telling stories, you reading to your child, reading print in the world around you, eg labels on tins and visits to the library. Try and include a variety of texts as even comics can spark off an interest in reading!

### Other homework activities

- Read the questions or task with your child to help them to understand what they are being asked to do
- Your child should try to complete the work by themselves but if they need support please help them.
- Sign the bottom of the page and make a note of the time it took to complete the task  
Let your child’s teacher know how much help you gave by adding one of the following symbols:  

<b>I</b>	my child completed the work independently
<b>S</b>	I supported by talking through the work
<b>S+</b>	I have needed to offer a great deal of support in order for my child to complete the task
- Sometimes the tasks won’t be on the homework sheets and won’t need any written response, for example, “on your way home look and see if you can spot any patterns on the door numbers of the houses (looking for odd and even numbers)”

**Your support is vital; please help us to help your child, by extending their learning beyond the classroom. Thank you.**

## Homework Help for Key Stage Two

### Pupils

All homework set by your teacher will be an extension of your learning within the classroom. To help you complete the activity, can we suggest that you:-

-  Find a quiet area to work in
-  Choose a sensible time to work – don't ask adults for help when they are busy cooking the tea or watching their favourite programme on the TV!
-  Make sure that you have all of the necessary resources in front of you, eg reference books, pencil, sharpener, calculator
-  Read the instructions on your homework sheets and in your Homework Diary carefully
-  Talk about what is involved and what you need to do, with an adult – this will help you to understand the task
-  Complete the page or activity that the teacher has asked you to do. If you want a challenge have a good at the extension activity if there is one.
-  Complete all of the work neatly and to the best of your ability. Always take pride in your work
-  Check your Maths answers by using a different strategy or method and check spellings and grammar in Literacy work
-  Pace yourself and monitor the time
-  Do your best – if you are struggling, then ask your parents or teacher for some help
-  At the end of your homework please add a face to tell your teacher how you felt about the task, eg
  - ☺ Means that you found the homework O.K.
  - ☹ Means that you found some of the homework quite challenging
  - ☹☹ Means that you found the homework really difficult and might need some extra help

### Parents

The homework set for your child will be the culmination of the areas of study for that week and should extend their learning and consolidate their understanding. We adhere to Government guidelines on the amount and type of homework. In order to help your child to complete the tasks set, we would suggest that you:-

- ◆ Agree a sensible, quiet place and time for homework to be completed
- ◆ Read the instruction / questions with your child, to ensure that they understand what is required of them
- ◆ Encourage your child to work independently, but be available to offer advice and support if your child asks for help
- ◆ Help your children to pace themselves (leaving it until the night before is not a good idea)
- ◆ Help your child to ensure that the homework is handed in on time
- ◆ Let your child's teacher know that you have checked that the homework has been completed and is accurate, by signing the work itself and, if you wish, make a note of how long it took to complete
- ◆ Let your child's teacher know how much support your child had needed in order to complete the task, by adding either:
  - I** my child completed the work independently
  - S** I supported by talking through the work
  - S+** I have needed to offer a great deal of support in order for my child to complete the task
- Homework will be set on a Friday and collected in on a Thursday.

Your support is vital; please help us to help your child by extending their learning beyond the classroom. Thank you.