

Escomb Primary School Homework Policy - SEPTEMBER 2017

This homework policy has been reviewed in the light of feedback received from pupil and parental questionnaires and discussions with staff.

At Escomb primary school, we believe that homework:

- consolidates and reinforces skills and understanding in numeracy, literacy and other curriculum areas
- helps raise the level of achievement and rates of progress of individual children
- engages and informs parents about children's current learning
- provides opportunities for parents and children to work together
- fosters an effective partnership between home and school.

We value the support of parents/carers and we believe that this policy will be successful if there is a strong partnership between home and school which is also reflected in our Home-School Agreement.

We recognise that all children need leisure time and hope that our policy reflects a balance so children can extend and consolidate their learning with parental support while still allowing 'down time.'

A breakdown of how homework is structured is attached.

This has been designed to encourage a gradual progression of skills and expectation so by the time children reach Year 6 they have established a clear routine in preparation for the next phase of their education. Most of the homework is provided for completion over the course of a week, fortnight or term so it can be made to fit around family lifestyles

What sort of homework will be set at Escomb Primary School?

Reading - Daily reading will continue to be given a high priority from Reception through to Year 6. Children across the school will be expected to read at least 5 times per week. In addition to this, children in Year 5 & 6 will be expected to log their reading in their homework diary.

Writing - In writing, children will initially work on spellings and sentence level work before progressing to longer pieces of writing; to include short extracts / stories.

Mathematics -In years 3 - 6, maths homework will alternate between 'Mathletics' or 'Activelearn' activities (online mathematics programmes) or written tasks set by the teacher.

In Year 1 & 2, mathematics homework will link to the Abacus maths programme used in school.

Other - Learning Challenge work will link to different subject areas and might include researching information, art work, a model, a presentation, a science experiment or a written piece of work.

NB: Homework will be differentiated to suit the needs of the individual child; either by content or outcome.

How long should homework take each week?

Current government guidelines suggest that:

- Years 1 and 2 should spend about one hour a week.
- Years 3 and 4 should spend about 1.5 hours a week.
- Years 5 and 6 should spend 30 minutes a day, or a total of 2.5 hours per week.

As a school, we have decided to adopt this guidance in determining how long homework should take. However, these are only guidelines and some children may want to spend longer on some aspects of homework.

When will homework be set?

Homework will be set across the school on a Friday and handed in by the following Wednesday. This will allow children sufficient time to complete their homework either during the week or at the week-end.

Daily reading should occur 5 times a week and be signed off by parents/carers.

In Reception Class and Key Stage 1, children's reading books will be collected in once a week and checked and changed on a specified day.

As children move into Key Stage 2 (Year 3-6) there are some additions to homework expectations and Year 6 homework differs slightly in order to prepare the children for their end of year tests and secondary school.

How will homework be set?

Each week class teachers will celebrate good examples of homework and explaining forthcoming homework tasks as appropriate.

For writing, teachers will produce a sheet with instructions for the writing to be either completed on the sheet or in homework books.

Maths tasks will be set online via activelearnprimary.co.uk. Once the set homework tasks are completed, pupils will be able to access other activities and games.

Some homework tasks will be set through use of Purple Mash. The children have their own log-ins for this site too.

The expectations for Learning Challenge homework will be outlined in a homework letter. Completed homework will either be put up on display, used as a basis for further research and/or stored in their Learning Challenge books.

What will happen if Homework is not handed in on time?

If children have not completed homework, or provided a letter from a parent/carer to explain the reasons why, they will in general have to complete outstanding homework during lunchtimes. If lack of homework becomes a recurring problem, the class teacher will contact parents / carers to discuss this matter further.

NB As part of Escomb Primary School's Home - School Agreement, all parents, carers and children agree to complete the homework on time and to a good standard.

How can parents help their children to learn and develop successfully?

Any help that parents and carers feel able to offer their children at home is really worthwhile. Helping a child with homework can and should be a positive experience. The individual attention a parent / carer can give, even if only for a short time, can help to motivate a child, build their confidence and self esteem and help them progress.

When helping a child with homework it is important to make this as stress free, constructive and enjoyable an experience as possible. Most children become unsettled if their parents/carers show too much anxiety over their progress or make obvious comparisons with siblings or friends. Make it clear to your child that you value homework and are interested in their reading and other tasks. Encourage and praise your child when they have completed their homework. It is important that homework reflects the true ability of the child. If your child is finding the homework tasks set too difficult or stressful, then please let the class teacher know.

All adults need to remember that children make lots of mistakes. Making mistakes is essential in order to learn. Mistakes do need to be put right, but not necessarily all at once!

Try to provide a suitably quiet place for the homework to be done. A routine can also be useful, so children know when homework takes place each week. Children also work much more effectively if they are not tired.

Homework Overview for 2016-2017

Year Group	Homework
Reception	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children will have a sound book/pack. New sounds will be added as the children learn them to be reinforced at home. • Children will be given a library book each week to share with parents at home. • Children will also be given a reading book to practise their phonic and wider reading skills. Each child will have a home/school reading diary for parents to record this in. • In preparation for new topics, parents will be asked to discuss/share ideas with their child. • Children will be asked to bring things in throughout the year to enhance focused activities.
Year 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily Reading 10 mins x 5 (50 minutes) • English or Maths will be sent on a Friday to be returned by Wednesday. Worksheets will be sent home to reinforce the learning in class. Maths may be on 'Active Learn' instead of or as well as a worksheet. This may also be asked for at other times of the week as appropriate. • Learning Challenge homework will be set as appropriate. This will usually involve some basic research work.
Year 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily Reading 10 mins x 5 (50 minutes) • English and/or Maths will be sent on a Friday to be returned by Wednesday. Worksheets will be sent home to reinforce the learning in class. Maths may be on 'Active Learn' instead of or as well as a worksheet and may also be times tables. This could be asked for at other times of the week as appropriate. • Learning Challenge homework will be set as appropriate. This will usually involve some basic research work. <p style="margin-left: 20px;">See additional information for spellings</p>
Year 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily Reading 10 mins x 5 (50 minutes) • English or Maths will be sent on a Friday to be returned by Wednesday. • Learning Challenge based homework relating to other subject areas will be sent home at regular intervals during the term. <p style="margin-left: 20px;">See additional information for spellings</p>
Year 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily Reading 10 mins x 5 (50 minutes) • English and Maths will be sent on a Friday to be returned by Wednesday. • Research activities relating to Learning Challenge work will be given at regular intervals throughout the term. <p style="margin-left: 20px;">See additional information for spellings</p>
Year 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily Reading 15 minutes x 5 (75 mins) • English or Maths will be sent on a Friday to be returned by Wednesday. • Research work relating to other subject areas will be given at regular intervals throughout the term. • Homework and reading logs should be recorded in their homework diary. <p style="margin-left: 20px;">See additional information for spellings</p>
Year 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily Reading 15 minutes x 5 (75 mins) • Tuesday - English or Maths Homework given - to be completed for Friday. • Friday - English or Maths Homework given - to be completed for Monday. • Some homework may be via the class blog. • Research work relating to other subject areas will be given at regular intervals throughout the term. • Homework and reading logs should be recorded in their homework diary. <p style="margin-left: 20px;">See additional information for spellings</p>

Children from Year 2-6 will follow the Read Write Inc. spelling programme. The programme supports the aims of the National Curriculum to ensure that children:

- Spell new words correctly and have plenty of practice in spelling them.

- Spell words as accurately as possible using their phonic knowledge.
- Are supported in understanding and applying the concepts of word structure.
- Spell words they have not yet been taught by using what they have learned about how spelling works in English.

Children work through a practice book, completing a range of spelling tasks and games. Each unit is linked to an area of spelling appropriate to that year group. Children will also be coming home with a log book (this should be kept in their school bag). In class they will log words they may have spelt incorrectly or are finding difficult to remember. These words should be practised at home as they will be used at the end of the unit as part of a spelling game. There are no structured spelling tests, just many opportunities for your child to consolidate their knowledge of new words in a fun and interactive way.