



Netherbrook Primary School Homework Policy

This policy was developed with the whole staff in consultation with parents. It was ratified by governors in summer term 2013.

Aims

Through this policy we aim to:

- Ensure that parents are clear about what their child is expected to do.
- Ensure consistency of approach throughout the school.
- To use homework as a tool to help continue to raise standards of attainment.

Equal Opportunities

All children have equal access and inclusive rights to the curriculum regardless of their gender, race, disability or ability. We plan work that is differentiated for the performance of all groups and individuals. Netherbrook Primary School is committed to creating a positive climate that will enable everyone to work free from any intimidation and harassment and to achieve their full potential. Children who do not have access to the internet are able to use the computers in school or are given an alternative paper based activity to complete.

What is the purpose of homework?

Homework is a way of parents spending time with their children to find out what they have been learning at school. It is an opportunity for children to work with parents to reinforce, consolidate or extend what has been learned in class. As children get older it is a way to make them more independent and prepare them for secondary school. At Netherbrook we appreciate the time parents spend with children at home supporting them with homework. Homework can take many forms and can include craft activities, dressing up challenges, ICT based work e.g. using Education City or other internet based game and activities, written work, practising skills, learning song words, extended writing and research. The school's expectations for homework are based on the government's recommendation of regular homework for all children from Year 1 upwards and their recommended minimum amounts of time to be spent by different year groups.

Homework should not cause undue stress on the pupil, family or the teacher. If you feel that your child has spent too long completing a piece of homework let us know. Ideally they should not be taking any longer than the allocated time to complete homework each week. Set homework will be recorded in planners. Teachers welcome comments from parents about homework successes and difficulties. These should also be recorded in your child's in homework exercise books or through a discussion with the teacher. Where possible teachers will endeavour to provide examples of what needs to be done in written pieces of work to give you the best possible help to support your child effectively.

It is not possible to give homework when parents take holidays in term time.

Government guidelines

While homework is not statutory, the government have produced guidelines for schools to follow. This outlines the following:

Year 1 and 2 one hour week

Year 3 and 4 one and a half hours per week

Year 5 and 6 two and a half hours per week

Ideally homework should be differentiated at the right level for the children and written homework should be marked.

Recent OFSTED guidance also outlines the importance of homework

“Appropriate and regular homework contributes well to pupils’ learning”.

Reception

Children are given a letters and sounds or literacy based activity, a maths activity and a book to read each week.

Homework is usually set on a Friday to be returned the following Wednesday. When returned some may be put into the parent/ pupil voice section of your child’s learning journey.

Year 1 and 2

Children are asked to read daily at home. They are also set spelling homework every week. Other homework will focus on maths and topics being covered in class. Not all homework will be written. However, children will be given a homework book to record any written homework. This will be marked by the teacher. Homework is usually given out on Friday to be returned the following Wednesday.

Year 3 and 4

Every week children will be expected to read daily as well as learn spellings and times tables or number bonds. The minimum homework to be set will be a piece of written literacy and maths homework to be given on alternate weeks. Children will be expected to complete written homework in their homework books. These books will be marked. Homework is usually given out on Friday to be returned the following Wednesday.

Year 5 and 6

Although spellings, reading and times tables or number bonds learning are set every night and a piece of maths or literacy is set weekly - usually given out on Friday to be returned the following Wednesday. Teachers in year 5 and 6 may also take a more flexible approach to setting homework. This is to prepare children for secondary school and also to enable teachers to respond to how children cope with work in class. Additional homework is generally set when needed, to consolidate, extend and fill gaps in learning. Children will be expected to complete all written homework in their homework books. These books will be marked. Guidance about how to support children will not always be given as teachers want to see what the children can do by themselves at home. If parents feel that they would like guidance on how certain pieces of homework should be completed, teachers will be more than happy to support with this. In the spring term in year 6 children will be asked to carry out revision tasks in preparation for their SATs tests in May in addition to other homework set. In total, year 6 homework should not take in excess of 2.5 hours per week.

Incomplete homework

Every parent and child signs a home school agreement at the beginning of their time with us. There is an expectation that homework will be completed if children have attended school that week and are fit and well. If homework is not completed at all or not completed to a high enough standard children may be asked to attend a homework session put on by school staff at lunch time or during Golden Time each week. This can also support children with busy social lives outside school. If parents are finding it difficult to fit some homework in or have any concerns please do not hesitate to come into school to discuss this with the class teacher.

Review

This policy will be reviewed in the summer term 2018.