

Hollywood Primary School



Homework Policy

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Hollywood Homework Policy

The Purpose of Homework

The school has consulted with staff, parents and the children to formulate a homework policy that is, as far as possible, a reflection of the shared values we hold about how to best nurture the potential of every child. These are the key elements of the shared philosophy that have emerged.

- Homework should always be purposeful and relevant to the children's learning.
- Homework should be clearly explained, with expectations and instructions for completion made explicit for children and parents.
- Homework should always be acknowledged and feedback given to the children.
- Homework should never be onerous and cause stress to already busy families.
- Homework should strike a balance between the development of core skills (reading, spelling, mental maths) and more 'inspirational' open ended tasks which give the pupils chance to develop specific areas of interest.
- Homework should develop a sense of responsibility and independence.

Aims

Through this policy we aim to:

- Ensure that parents and staff are clear about what children in each age group are expected to do.
- Ensure consistency of approach throughout the school.
- Use homework as a tool to help continue to raise standards of attainment.
- Improve the quality of the learning experience offered to pupils and to extend it beyond the classroom environment.
- Provide opportunities for parents, children and the school to work together in partnership in relation to children's learning.
- Encourage pupils and their parents to share and enjoy learning experiences together.
- Reinforce work covered in class by providing further opportunities for individual learning.
- Help pupils to practise or consolidate basic skills and knowledge, especially in Numeracy, Literacy.
- Encourage children to develop the responsibility, confidence and self-discipline needed to study independently.

Expectations

Governmental recommendations for the appropriate amount of time spent doing homework activities are as follows:

Foundation Stage – up to 1 hour
Years 1 and 2 - 1 hour per week
Years 3 and 4 - 1.5 hours per week
Years 5 and 6 - 30 minutes per day

We feel that this is generally an appropriate amount of homework to expect from children at these phases. However, we also acknowledge that children and families can often have very busy times and homework should be flexible enough to work around this. Homework should contribute to the overall holistic development of the child and not prevent children and families from doing any extra activities at any time.

With this in mind, we propose that there should be a balance of homework that consolidates core skills with more open ended, inspirational tasks. We feel that if the homework engages then more children will enjoy it and relish further opportunities to spend time producing work of quality.

Tasks

There will be four strands to the homework that children will receive:

- Core skills – Spellings & Times-tables
- Reading
- Independent learning

Core skills Homework

The children have weekly spelling and also have times-tables that they learn each week. We think that it is important that the children work on the spellings and tables that they have struggled with in-between the weekly tests.

Reading

Reading is a vital key skill and it is important that children practise and consolidate the reading skills taught in school, as part of literacy lessons and guided reading, at home. There is an expectation that children will read to parents at home and bring in their reading diaries to be checked by the teacher on a regular basis. It is essential that children continue to read aloud to parents even when they read fluently as it gives the opportunity to ask searching questions to test their deeper understanding of the text.

Independent learning Homework

To reflect the schools focus on developing the children as independent learners we would like to offer the children the opportunity to study in a more in depth way at home and follow their own particular interests.

This homework will be optional with is no stipulated quantity to be produced. The hope is that children will be inspired to complete many of the tasks and enjoy the opportunity to deepen their learning about certain areas of the topic they are currently studying.

House points will be awarded to those children who produce 'independent learning' homework to acknowledge their extra efforts and to encourage them to follow their particular academic interests outside of the classroom.

Communication

The core skills homework will be set weekly and clear expectations for its return will be clearly written on the homework. However, because of different routines in different classrooms there will not be a set day on which all homework is to be set and returned. All teachers will inform parents about their preferred days for setting and receiving homework and plenty of notice will be given for all homework.

Inclusion

Treating each and every child as a unique learner is something which Hollywood prides itself on. Therefore, we are committed to making sure that all homework can be accessed by every child and is appropriate for them.

In setting core skills homework class teachers are expected to pitch the level of tasks correctly for all children. Therefore this kind of homework will need to be differentiated for different ability levels. As for the homework that involves pupil choice, there will always be tasks to choose from at different ability levels so that children can ideally choose tasks appropriate for themselves, or be guided towards appropriate tasks by teachers.