



Homework Policy

Aims: To give clear guidelines to Parents on the type of support that can be given at home.

To establish the type and range of homework expected of children at the school.

Children at Parsonage Farm School are very young and are spending the majority of their waking day working hard at school. Bearing this in mind, most children will be tired when they arrive home and will need to relax and enjoy the rest of their day with their Parents.

There are, however, interesting and varied activities which can be enjoyed as games at home but are of considerable benefit to the children's learning experience at school. Simple games such as "I spy", Lotto, Dominoes, Jigsaws and many of the popular board games all help the children to learn to concentrate and persevere as well as aiding the development of hand/eye co-ordination, phonics and pattern recognition.

Children can be helped to develop their language skills by playing alongside adults who are talking with them and listening to their ideas. Playing imaginative games is also a very valuable experience for all concerned.

All of the children are given every encouragement to choose books for reading at home from their earliest time in the Nursery. We are happy to give tuition to parents in the type of activities they can engage in when sharing a book, but the best value comes from taking the time to share the enjoyment of the book, talking about the pictures and the characters.

As the children start to bring home a book from the reading scheme, the same type of activities can be followed. We teach the children the "paired" reading technique in school, whereby they keep a finger underneath each word as it is read, with the adult finger following the same pattern on the top of the word. Reading in this way means that the adult can actually read the book, with the child joining in, picking up valuable clues about the text as the story progresses (see Policies for Reading and Home/School Reading).

From the beginning, each child has a booklet entitled "Reading Record". In this book the teacher will record the title of the book that has been sent home with a relevant comment on the child's progress, together with a simple "target" for the child to practice in their reading with a Parent. Reading together at home should be a pleasurable experience for all concerned and should be stopped immediately if it becomes stressful. All of the teachers are happy to talk about reading at home to individual Parents and to give guidance as requested.

Spellings are sent home weekly as soon as the children reach a stage where it is appropriate for them to practice, but will be a regular feature for all children as soon as they start year 1. We teach a Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check approach which encourages the children to check accuracy for themselves. Each child has a book into which the spellings for the week are pasted.

Maths homework is set in the form of fun activities specially designed for the whole family to join in and consists of a sheet that is sent home at intervals. By year 1, it will be fortnightly. No child will ever be censured for not completing a piece of work, but they do benefit considerably from a little parent time, with the task providing an idea for exploration. Other useful skills which can be reinforced at home are ideas about sharing, measurement, time and the use of money. We do teach the children “tables”- starting with x2, x5 and x10.

During the latter half of year 1 and through year 2, writing tasks may be sent home to support a class activity during that week. Children can be encouraged to write at home for a variety of different purposes – shopping lists (they can then find the items at the Supermarket!), notes to the garage mechanic, milkman etc.

Many homes now have computers equipped with exciting child-orientated software and Internet access. Both can be used very effectively to support knowledge, skills and interests between home and school.

Individual responses to extra activities at home vary greatly. We therefore encourage Parents to come to us and discuss appropriate strategies and tasks in order to achieve the right balance for the child and Parents.

Young children are learning from everything around them and make sense of things through play and talk. We can encourage the process of learning and influence the pace of their understanding by open questioning which encourages them to think for themselves. A family day out to a theme park, a zoo, a museum or just a walk around can all prove useful “homework” which supports children’s learning in school. At the beginning of every half-term, a little booklet is sent home which explains many of the different things you can do to support your child’s learning at home, both in basic skills (speaking and listening, reading, spelling, writing and maths) and other key areas such as science and ICT.

We enjoy teaching the children and helping them to explore their world. We hope you will too.