



Grove Park Primary School

Homework Policy

May 2013

Introduction

This policy links closely with the school's equal opportunities policy, marking/presentation and behavioural policies.

Why Homework?

There are many reasons for children doing homework in the primary years. We list some of them below:

1. To reinforce or prepare for work undertaken at school.
2. It can be a way of practising basic skills and consolidating class work.
3. It can be a positive influence for improved home/school contacts.
4. To develop some responsibility for a child's own learning, developing independence, organisation and time management.
5. To further develop investigative skills.
6. As a preparation for the future.
7. It can be enjoyable and a worthwhile use of time.

Health Warning

Primary age children are still very young and at the lower end of the school, they are usually tired after a full day at school. We don't want them exhausted at school because they have been doing so much work after normal school hours. Time to play and relax is an **essential** element for the development of every child.

We hope that children will be taking part in outside activities such as Brownies, Cubs, swimming, dancing, music lessons etc. The school values these activities as part of the children's wider education and would not wish to see them reduced due to the pressure of homework.

Nursery

Right from the start of the year Nursery children will be given the opportunity to take home a book and to share this with an adult on a frequent and regular basis. There are no Home learning books but each child is given a home/school book to use as a scrap book.

Reception

Children will change their reading books twice a week. They are expected to share books alongside an adult regularly and for this to be an interesting and enjoyable part of their home learning. There are no home learning books but each child is given a home/school book to use as a scrap book. We encourage parents to discuss the children's day with them and to support any learning.

Years 1 - 6

As well as daily reading, home learning should be a combination of activities to create a balanced and stimulating programme. This may include:

- Numeracy tasks and games

- ❑ Learning spellings using a **variety** of techniques specified by the teacher inc. L/C/W/Ch/S – Learning common words is essential.
- ❑ Learning tables or number bonds for a maths test
- ❑ Grammar and sentence work
- ❑ Research for information
- ❑ Preparing for a lesson or a presentation of their ideas
- ❑ Finishing off where appropriate
- ❑ Written tasks
- ❑ Reviews of books or visits
- ❑ Quizzes and puzzles
- ❑ Problem solving
- ❑ Observations
- ❑ Projects reinforcement of skills
- ❑ Sketching and art work
- ❑ Comprehension

The following times are a guideline for staff and parents.

Year Group	Reading	Tasks
Reception	Daily	
Year 1	Daily	1 x 20 minutes a week
Year 2	Daily	1 x 30 minutes a week
Year 3	Daily	1 x 30 minutes a week
Year 4	Daily	2 x 20 minutes a week
Year 5	Daily	2 x 30 minute tasks
Year 6	Daily	1 – 1 ½ hours per week

- Year 1:** One task from any subject to be completed per week. They will also have spellings to learn and be expected to read on a daily basis.
- Year 2:** One task from any subject to be completed per week. They will also have spellings and tables to learn and be expected to read on a daily basis.
- Year 3:** One task from any subject to be completed per week. They will also have spellings and tables to learn and be expected to read on a daily basis and complete their reading log or diary. They will complete a termly project that takes four weeks.
- Year 4:** Two tasks from any subject to be completed per week. They will also have tables to learn and be expected to read on a daily basis and complete their reading diary. They will complete a termly project that takes four weeks.
- Year 5:** Two tasks from any subject to be completed per week. They will also have tables to learn and be expected to read on a daily basis and complete their reading diary. In addition, they will complete a termly project that takes four weeks.
- Year 6:** Children in Year 6 will complete tasks that take between 1 to 1 ½ hours. The number of tasks is at the discretion of the teacher and will vary depending on the time of the year and the learning that has taken place that

week. They will also be expected to read on a daily basis and complete their reading diary. They will complete a termly project that takes four weeks.

Children with Specific Needs –Home learning

The staff at Grove Park will always try to ensure that home learning set is appropriate for all the children in their class. It is important that children share as much home learning with others as is possible. Teachers will endeavour to provide tasks in which children are given opportunities to succeed. On some occasions home learning may need to be personalised by the teacher in order to cater for a group or an individual's specific needs.

Setting and Marking Home Learning

Please remember that parents usually take a great interest in home learning and often devote lots of time in support. Your instructions need to be clear and give examples to help parents whose children are not able to fully explain the expectations. Please present home learning in a visually attractive way that demonstrates, as precisely as possible, what is required.

Parents are asked to rule off and sign when home learning has taken well above the time limit set. This will help teachers realise when a child is having difficulties. There is a heavy emphasis on handing in home learning on time and to a good standard.

Teachers are expected to mark home learning in detail, comments which support learning and help both parents and children understand their misconceptions are required.

How Do We Organise And Develop Homework?

Homework should be completed to the same high standard as work completed in school. The presentation guidelines that children follow in class, should be also adhered to when completing homework. School books and property must be treated with care.

Homework will be set at regular times during the school week so that families know what to expect. In general, children will not be given homework that requires overnight completion.

All homework set **must** be completed in the allotted time. If children do not return their homework on the agreed day, they will be required to complete it during break or lunch time. If this is repeated twice within a half-term period, a letter will be sent to the parent or carer informing them of this problem and asking for their support in addressing this issue. If this problem continues this could lead to a meeting with a member of the SLT.

At Grove Park we feel that it is essential for all children to read regularly at home to an adult or independently, if the child is older.

All children, from Year 2 upwards have a homework book. The children will write down the homework to be completed (and when it is to be returned) or stick in a printed sheet with the information on it. They will then complete their actual homework in this book.

Teachers will disseminate more detailed information for each class at the termly Curriculum talk and in the curriculum booklet.

Types and Amount of Work

It is important to understand that the amount of work expected of children will change as they grow older. Different teachers will have their own way of managing the details of how it is to be administered. These are guidelines that have been agreed by the staff in order to ensure progression through the school as well as curriculum continuity.

In general there should be a **daily** organised time given to reading with an adult – this may include reading to an adult, listening to stories and discussing the story or reading reference books, which may be from home school or the local library. Although fluent readers will be more independent, there should still be some support to guide interpretation of the text.

As well as a homework book, the children should also have a home- school reading book, which should be completed daily.

Role of Parents and Carers

Whilst the teachers will aim to provide suitable tasks for children to complete at home, there needs to be a commitment from parents to provide appropriate support and guidance. The following are guidelines for ‘happy home learning’ should be shared with the parents.

- ❑ Care for resources including the home-school reading books and homework books.
- ❑ If at all possible, find a quiet place to complete the task (possibly different places for different types of homework).
- ❑ Help in finding appropriate resources – such as pasta, counters, string or making small items for games such as dice.
- ❑ Assistance in the timing of the task – both the time of day and the length.
- ❑ Praise the efforts of your child to let them know **you** are pleased and that their work is of value to you.

All Pupils

Reading should be considered as homework for all pupils at the school and a regular time for reading is essential for **all** pupils in the school.

During the year, children will be asked to memorise small pieces e.g. works for an assembly, Christmas production or small pieces of poetry.

Over the term children may also be expected to work on a project over a period of time linked to a National Curriculum Subject.

Alongside other information, the homework expectations of the year are explained at the annual class curriculum meeting that takes place at the start of every school year. There will also be more information in the termly class newsletter.