



HEATHFIELD PRIMARY AND NURSERY HOMEWORK POLICY

This policy aims to:

- ✓ Provide a clear definition of the purpose and nature of homework at Heathfield
- ✓ To ensure parents/carers and children are clear about expectations
- ✓ To establish how homework will be organised in each Key Phase

Why give homework?

- It can inform parents/carers about work going on in class
- It can further stimulate enthusiasm for learning
- It can take advantage of the home environment and resources and the chance for one to one adult time
- It can be a great source for gathering topic information to share with class peers
- It is a great opportunity to practise key skills and improve fluency such as: instant recall of times tables and number bonds, spellings and other key facts
- It helps foster good habits of organisation, self-discipline, perseverance and prepares children for the demands of secondary school

Whilst we support all of the above key principles, Heathfield Primary and Nursery is not a school at which homework is intended to dominate home and school life. We accept that not every activity will capture the children's and parent/carers' imagination and that weekends and evenings after school can sometimes be very busy.

We hope the children are motivated by the positive feedback and by the tasks themselves and are not punished if they fail to complete homework tasks. However, if a child consistently fails to complete and return homework tasks, this is discussed with the child and parents/carers.

To support the notion of becoming 'secondary ready' Year 6 pupils will be asked to complete any outstanding homework during their lunch break if they fail to complete and return such tasks.

At Heathfield Primary and Nursery School we are very fortunate to have such an incredibly hard working staff team. Nationally, there are huge concerns about teachers' workload and these issues must be taken seriously in order to avoid serious impact on health, teacher recruitment and retention. In exercising our duty of care to the staff team we place no expectation that homework should be marked neither do we promote marking above other forms of feedback and assessment.

Broadly speaking these are the current expectations for each of the Key Phases at Heathfield Primary:

In the Early Years Foundation Stage (F1 and F2):

- ✓ A 'Bright Ideas' sheet is sent out to parents/carers every Monday. These detail the learning that is taking place in class for that week. There is always a small homework task set. This is expected to be returned to school by the following Monday. It is then filed away in to homework folders.
- ✓ Homework Project - a creative homework challenge is set each term relating to the topic to be done in partnership with parents/carers, friends and family
- ✓ Reading- every child is expected to read regularly throughout the week and for this to be evidenced in reading diaries by parents/carers

In Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2):

Every week the Key Stage 1 Team send home the 'Key Stage 1 Woodland News' which informs parents/carers about what the children are learning in school and suggestions and ideas for homework that can be done with their child. They have called it the 'Woodland News' because the KS1 classes all have woodland creatures as their class names.

Book Bags

The main homework for Key Stage 1 children is reading their book-bags at home every day and learning any 'Bear Words' they have been given. There is a Reading Contract to sign in Reading Diaries where the expectation is that parents/carers also write in diaries at least 3 times a week. This does not have to be written in detail but will indicate to the teacher that a child has read at home regularly. This is important because children need to read their colour banded book more than once to gain fluency and their extra book can be used as a bed-time story to share.

All children have their book-bags changed weekly in school and teachers will make a comment about children's reading at school in the diary.

To reward children who regularly read their book-bag at home, each KS1 teacher will offer stickers each week and small prize draws will take place every half-term.

Spellings

Spellings are sent home every week on a Friday and are linked to the daily phonics lessons. Parents/carers are asked to support their child by getting them to look for the spelling patterns and to learn them using the method suggested on the worksheet: 'Look, cover, write and check'.

All children will be expected to use these words in their independent written work. Spellings will be tested each week beginning after the October half-term.

Maths

Maths homework is sent home weekly on a Friday and will reflect the topics covered within Maths lessons. The homework will either revise something learned in a lesson or will build on what has already been taught. These will either be in the form of a worksheet to complete or a suggested practical activity or game.

Homework Project

Every term there will be a more creative homework task which will involve children making a choice from a number of options. These could include producing: artwork, stories or posters linked to the class topic. Children are photographed with their final pieces, and will be displayed in class or in the school hall.

Lower Key Stage 2 (Years 3 and 4):

Reading

Homework expectations require Year 3 and 4 children to bring their book bags into school daily, with their reading diaries. Reading diaries will be monitored by class teachers, who will expect all children to be reading at least five times per week. We also expect that parents/carers sign the reading contract and comment when children have read. Class teachers will praise the children who have their diary signed and have read five times per week with their own choice of reward.

Year 3 and 4 teachers will write comments in reading diaries following Guided Reading or one to one reading for parents/carers to see. Positive comments about work may also be noted in their diaries.

Spellings

Spellings will be handed out on Fridays and tested the following Friday. Each child will be given a new 'look, cover, write, check' sheet each week to help them learn their spellings. These will be matched to the children's abilities (differentiated).

Maths

Times tables will be tested on Fridays as well, so any times table drilling will support pupils in school. Progress will be monitored throughout the year.

Homework Project

Just like in the EYFS and Key Stage 1, each term children will be asked to make a choice from a set list for their homework project. These tasks are a chance for children and parents/carers, friends and family to showcase their creative skills working in partnership to produce a final product for display in the hall.

Additional homework will be linked to learning. The Y3/4 Team will prepare a task that will support the children's learning for the following week. Year 3 and 4 pupils will receive homework on a Friday and handing in days will be stated. The school will not be providing homework books this year.

Upper Key Stage 2 (Years 5 and 6):

Reading

Children need to aim to read at least 5 times a week at home and achieve at least 3 signed signatures from parents/carers (contracts will be shared and placed in the back of diaries). For every 10 signatures the children receive in their reading diary this will be recorded working towards some kind of incentive. At the end of a half term a reading treat/incentive will be given to the 'leading' class who has accrued the most signatures. This treat/incentive will be changed regularly in order to maintain the children's interest.

Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling (GPS)

Children will receive a weekly GPS activity. This will not be differentiated for year groups and again will link to the learning in class.

Spellings will be distributed on a Monday, and children will have a week to learn them before being tested the following Monday. Again, these will be differentiated by ability. For children that do not achieve at least 5 spellings, they will have to practise these words during a Monday lunchtime. We do appreciate that some children struggle with spellings, therefore if the weekly spellings are completed at home on the format provided (and handed to the teacher) they will not serve this sanction.

Maths

A homework task linked to the learning in class or personalised to the maths groups that the children generally work within. These tasks will be tailored to a child's abilities.

Homework Project

Just like in the other Phases, each term children will be asked to make a choice from a set list for their homework project. These tasks are a chance for children and parents/carers, friends and family to showcase their creative skills working in partnership to produce a final product for display in the school hall.

Year 6 children will receive an additional piece of homework at the start of Spring 1. This will support the build up to SATs and will consist of a reading comprehension. Furthermore, as previously mentioned, to prepare our Year 6 children for secondary school, any child that does not complete their homework task at home will do so during a lunchtime.