

HOMEWORK POLICY

PARK HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

The purpose of homework:

- To develop an effective partnership between school and home in following the aims of the school
- To consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding, particularly in English and maths
- To enable children to have access to a wide range of resources for learning
- To extend school learning
- To encourage pupils, as they get older, to develop the confidence and self-discipline needed to study on their own, and prepare them for the requirements of secondary school

Homework does not just mean formal exercises carried out by children without help from adults. Particularly in the case of younger children, it is the involvement of parents in joint activities, which can be very brief, which is most valuable in promoting children's learning.

The focus of homework:

At Park Hill, we believe that the main focus of homework should be to support the work undertaken in school in English and Maths. Science and other subjects should be added to this as children move up through the school, without losing the focus of English and Maths.

Regular reading is vital. For children in Nursery, Reception and KS1, homework should largely consist of regular reading with parents and looking at books together. This continues to be essential right through the school. Children from years 2 to 6 are able to access a library of books at home online at <http://readingeggs.co.uk/>.

The practice of phonics and spelling at home, at the appropriate stage of development, is expected across all year groups. Children from years 2 to 6 are able to access spelling activities to support learning online at <http://uk.spellodrome.com/#/home>.

For maths, number games and tasks should be played at home for the younger children, and more formal exercises for the older ones. Children from years 2 to 6 are able to access maths activities to support learning online at <http://www.mathletics.co.uk/>.

The setting of homework:

The class teachers are responsible for setting the homework, ensuring that it is manageable and differentiated where appropriate. They will allow sufficient time for it to be carried out, which will include a week-end and week days.

The homework programme at Park Hill:

Nursery and Reception:

- Making links with home and sharing ideas built upon in school through parent workshops
- Reading books and a reading diary
- Phonemes and words to learn
- At the appropriate stage of development, children are given paper based number activities and activities to support language development

Year 1:

- Reading – every night
- At the appropriate stage of development, learning spellings, phonics and high frequency words - weekly
- At the appropriate stage of development, maths tasks given relating to class work - weekly
- Weekly homework given out on Friday and returned on Wednesday
- Marked by teacher

Year 2:

- Reading – every night
- Learning spellings, phonics and high frequency words – weekly
- Maths – practising counting on 100 square and learning number bonds, tasks relating to class work - weekly
- English – phonics and sentence work - weekly
- Access to Mathletics, Spellodrome and Reading Eggs (library) activities
- Weekly homework given out on Friday and returned on Wednesday
- Marked by TA
- Sanction – missed golden time

Year 3:

- Reading – every night
- Learning key spellings and tables – weekly
- Maths task relating to class work - weekly
- English – grammar and punctuation tasks - weekly
- Access to Mathletics, Spellodrome and Reading Eggs (library) activities
- Weekly homework given out on Friday and returned on Wednesday
- Marked by children
- Sanction – missed golden time
- Homework books used

Year 4:

- Reading – every night
- Learning key spellings and tables – weekly
- Maths task relating to class work - weekly
- English – grammar and punctuation tasks - weekly
- Half termly topic related research project task
- Access to Mathletics, Spellodrome and Reading Eggs (library) activities
- Weekly homework given out on Monday and returned on Monday
- Marked by children

- Sanction – completed at lunchtime
- Homework books used

Year 5:

- Reading – every night
- Learning spellings and tables – weekly
- Handwriting practice where needed
- Maths – weekly task relating to class work
- English - grammar and punctuation tasks - weekly
- Research tasks linked to topic set where appropriate
- Access to Mathletics, Spellodrome and Reading Eggs (library) activities
- Weekly homework given out on Wednesday and returned on Wednesday
- Marked by children
- Homework books used

Year 6:

- Reading – every night
- Learning spellings and tables – weekly
- Handwriting practice where needed
- Maths – weekly task relating to class work
- English - grammar and punctuation tasks - weekly
- Research tasks where appropriate
- Y6 SATs revision in spring term
- Access to Mathletics and Spellodrome activities Reading Eggs (library) activities
- Weekly homework given out on Friday and returned on Wednesday
- Marked by children, peers and teacher
- Homework books used

How Park Hill staff support this policy:

- by providing a range of homework tasks and activities to consolidate and extend learning in class, with correct resources
- by ensuring that the children have a clear understanding of the tasks involved, with clear instructions and examples where appropriate; a common understanding of the high expectations held of them individually, according to their ability
- by communicating with parents and keeping them informed of children's progress, topics to be covered and their child's individual targets through termly newsletters and parents' evenings by explaining homework to parents if asked to

How parents can help support their children:

- by providing somewhere peaceful for children to work without the distractions of television, other family members or pets
- by providing a suitable place, equipped with a comfortable chair, clear table space and good light
- by providing encouragement and support to children when they require it
- by supporting the school in explaining to children that homework is valued and aids learning
- by encouraging pupils and praising them when homework is completed to a high standard
- by being actively involved in the homework of younger children in particular

Pupils are expected to:

- make full use of all the opportunities they are presented with
- tackle home tasks promptly and with a positive attitude
- take pride in presentation and content of work and homework books where used (years 3 to 6)
- be organised so that necessary books and equipment are not left at school
- take responsibility for handing in the completed task by the agreed time

Monitoring and marking homework will include:

- Self marking
- Teacher marking
- Peer marking
- Presentations

Homework tasks form part of the activities planned in the sequence of lessons and feed into lessons.

Sanctions for non-completion of homework:

Children complete homework in Golden Time or lunchtime from Year 2 to year 6.

Policy agreed by Curriculum Committee of Governing Body

Date: 9.11.15

To be reviewed: December 2017