



St Paschal Baylon Catholic Primary School



Following In The Footsteps Of Christ

Homework Policy

Introduction

Homework at St. Paschal Baylon Catholic Primary School is anything that the children do outside of school which contributes to their learning in response to guidance from the school. Homework encompasses a variety of activities across the school which allows parents and carers to support their children's learning. The school values the importance of reading as a skill for life and homework will always include an emphasis on developing reading skills from Reception up to Year 6. We encourage parents to support us with fostering a love of reading through helping their children to access a variety of reading experiences as well as their school reading book.

We also recognise the value of quality time spent outside of school with family and friends and the importance of children having the time needed to access the outdoors, hobbies, rest and socialise. Therefore, we strive to find a balance between allowing children to develop their learning further at home and ensuring children have the opportunity to relax, look after their mental health and well-being and enjoy being children!

Aims of this Policy

- To ensure that there is a clear understanding of what is meant by the term Homework.
- To ensure that teachers, parents/carers and children are fully aware of the role they play with regard to homework.
- To outline the homework expectations for each Key Stage in the school.

The Purpose of Homework

- To consolidate and extend skills and understanding, particularly in English and Maths, and provide opportunities for parents and children to work together.
- To allow parents/carers to gain an understanding of what children are learning in school.
- To allow children to progress towards becoming more independent learners, preparing them for the next phase of their education and their future working lives.

Responsibilities

The school is responsible for:

- Providing a clear homework policy

- Helping children to understand the importance of practising their learning and encouraging them to complete their homework tasks when their parents/carers ask them to
- Setting homework tasks that are matched to the ability of the children
- Explaining homework tasks clearly – giving the children the opportunity to check understanding
- Providing further support/ explanation when needed
- Reviewing homework and providing feedback when necessary

Parents/Carers are responsible for:

- Providing an environment and time suitable for children to complete their homework in.
- Providing basic equipment (pens, pencils, ruler) for the completion of homework to a satisfactory standard.
- Spending time talking to their child about their homework and supporting them when needed.
- Communicating to the teacher if homework has been a challenge for any reason

Children are responsible for:

- Completing their homework when their parents/carers request them to
- Completing all homework activities to the best of their ability – keeping to the standard of work expected in school.
- Asking for help if they do not understand the task.
- Returning their completed homework on the set day (this responsibility transfers from parents to our older children in preparation for secondary school)

How is homework information distributed?

- All homework in our school is given out every Thursday and is collected in on the following Wednesday
- Reading Books for children following the RWI Phonics scheme (EYFS-Year 2 and some Year 3 children) are given out each week according to the Phonics group they are in (either on a 3 day or 5 day schedule)

- Reading books in other year groups are given out weekly on a set day according to the availability of the Teaching Assistant to change the books. Details will be on the year group pages of the school website.
- The class teacher is responsible for giving out homework, complete with instructions to their class each week.

What happens when children do not complete homework?

The expectation is that children will complete and hand in their homework. Teachers keep records of children who complete homework. If homework is persistently not handed in, class teachers will speak to parents/carers to identify if there are any issues regarding the homework or if there is any support that can be offered.

As children progress through the school to the older year groups, we recognise our role in preparing children for the transition to the next stage of their education where homework will increase and the likelihood is that sanctions may be in place for children who do not complete homework. Therefore, children in Year 6 who do not complete homework will have a reminder sent to their parents/carers informing them that their child has failed to complete homework.

If children in Year 6 persistently fail to complete homework (over a 3 week period), then they will miss part of their morning break as a sanction and be asked to complete some of their homework activities during this period.

Homework in the Early Years Foundation Stage

The school places significant emphasis on the importance of shared experiences between parents/carers and children during these vital early years of a child's development.

Our EYFS children are encouraged to read and look at books as much as possible. Shared stories at home are a wonderful way to foster a love of books and reading.

Once children are settled into the Reception class, they learn phonics (letter sounds) through the Read Write Inc programme in school to develop their early reading skills. Reception children receive phonics video clips such as a sound of the day to practice at home daily on Tapestry and they will also receive a 'Fred Talk' video once a week to

practice at home. Reception children will also initially receive a wordless reading book to take home to practice comprehension skills and encourage talking about the story. As children progress through the RWI scheme, they will also be given words, ditties or a reading book to take home and practice.

Parents will be invited to attend a Reading Workshop where the RWI Phonics programme and the teaching of early reading will be explained in more detail.

Children in Reception also receive one other piece of homework each week which could be Maths, RE or Topic based. Alongside this, children will have a Numbots account which is a fun interactive maths programme with number games and activities. This is not compulsory but is there for parents and children who choose to do some extra maths games at home.

We do not expect our children in the Early Years to spend any longer than 20 minutes per week on homework.

Homework in Key Stage One

During Key Stage One, there continues to be emphasis placed on the importance of shared reading and fostering a love of learning and reading. The development of speech and language skills, vocabulary and listening skills is vital in supporting children to develop their ability to read and write independently. The school encourages parents/carers to spend time reading a variety of text types and talking about them with their child.

Key Stage One children are not expected to spend longer than 20-25 minutes per week on formal school homework.

Year 1

Children in Year 1 continue to follow the RWI phonics scheme and will bring home a reading book which they have been studying in class to practice at home each week. As they progress through the scheme they will also bring home an unseen text of a similar level to the RWI stage they are working at.

Year 1 children will also bring home either one piece of English homework or one piece of Maths homework (alternate weeks). Year 1 children also receive weekly virtual spelling classroom video links via Google Classroom.

Year 2

Children in Year 2 continue to follow the RWI phonics scheme and will bring home a reading book which they have been studying in class to practice at home each week. As they progress through the scheme they will also bring home an unseen text of a similar level to the RWI stage they are working at. When Year 2 children have completed the

RWI phonics scheme, they are given a reading book once a week from the Phonic Bug scheme which is matched to their ability level.

Year 2 children will also bring home either one piece of English homework or one piece of Maths homework (alternate weeks).

At the beginning of the year, children in Year 2 will be given Logins to Spelling Shed, an interactive online programme which teaches spellings through games and activities. Year 2 children will be given some spellings to practice on Spelling Shed once every two weeks.

Year 2 children will also be given a Login to an App called Times Tables Rockstars (TTRS), a fun, interactive, online game which helps children to learn their times tables. This is not compulsory but is there for children and parents who choose to spend some additional time at home practising their times tables.

Homework in Key Stage 2

As children progress through Key Stage 2, it is expected that they take more responsibility for their own homework and become more independent in completing it and handing it in. However, the encouragement, interest and support of parents/carers with homework continues to be vital. The school continues to encourage children and parents to read together as much as possible.

Year 3

Some children in Year 3 may still be following the RWI phonics programme and will continue to bring home the reading book each week which links to their stage in the programme.

When children come off the RWI programme in Year 3, they will be given a reading book each week which is matched to their ability.

Children in Year 3 are not expected to spend more than 25 minutes on homework each week.

Year 3 children will receive spelling activities to practice each week on Spelling Shed. They will also receive one piece of English homework linked to these spellings each week. Year 3 also receive either a piece of Maths homework each week or will be expected to spend at

least ten minutes on TTRS practising their multiplication tables, which are crucial to master in Lower Key Stage 2.

Years 4, 5 and 6

Children in Years 4 and 5 are not expected to spend longer than 30 minutes per week on homework. Children in Year 6 are not expected to spend longer than 40 minutes on homework.

All children in Key Stage 2 will continue to receive a reading book once a week that is matched to their ability. Older children may choose a book from the class library and may need to keep it for longer than a week, depending on the length of the text.

All children in these year groups will receive spelling activities to be completed on Spelling Shed each week along with one piece of English and one piece of Maths homework each week. English homework may take the form of written work or work based on reading comprehension skills. Maths work will focus on consolidation of arithmetic and basic skills which have been taught during the week or across the half term.

All children in these year groups will also have access to TTRS and are encouraged to spend some additional minutes practising their times tables.

Working in Partnership

We know that homework can sometimes be a challenge, particularly for children with additional needs. Class teachers will ensure that any work being set is achievable for individual children and will always go through the homework with children in class before they take it home. However, if there are any issues with homework, we encourage parents to let their child's class teacher know so that we can offer support and work together to ensure that children are happy and learning.