

Homework Policy 2022/23

King's Park Primary School



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At King's Park Primary School, we are committed to working in partnership with our school community, and are dedicated to finding timely and accessible ways to involve parents and carers with their child's school life. Homework is just one of the ways that we can do this. At King's Park Primary School, we believe that homework can help to support a child's development and attainment and is therefore an important part of a child's education.

Parent, Pupil and Staff surveys were completed in the 2021/22 academic session to seek the views of all stakeholders. The feedback from these has been used to inform parts of this policy.

Aims of the Policy

Through implementation of this policy, we aim to:

- Ensure a consistent approach to homework throughout school (from P1 - P7).
- Make homework relevant and meaningful for the child linked to work completed at school.
- Make the expectations about homework clear to children, parents and carers.
- Give children the opportunity to extend their learning in a range of learning contexts.
- Encourage children to develop the independence and motivation needed to complete activities on their own.
- Provide opportunities for parents and children to work together.

Homework at King's Park

The homework we set is based on the following principles:

- The amount and difficulty of homework should be set according to each child's age and ability.
- Enough time should be allocated for the completion of homework to allow for a healthy home/school work balance.
- Teachers ensure that tasks are differentiated and aimed at developing and consolidating basic skills which have been introduced in class.
- High expectations are in place regarding neat presentation in homework jotters to ensure that children maintain a similar high standard of work at home as in school.
- Homework should be linked to previous learning and key skills.
- As a child progresses through school, the amount of homework allocated to them increases.

Homework Activities

In addition to daily reading and weekly spelling, each class teacher will set a four-week homework grid for each year group to provide a range of engaging activities for the children to choose from.

- The grids offer a choice of homework tasks that can be completed in any order. Some of these activities will be linked into spelling and reading tasks.
- Tasks are to be completed in the children's homework jotters, however some activities may be sent via Google Classrooms for our children with Chromebooks.
- Children should hand their homework jotters in to their class teacher on an agreed date each week. Jotters will be marked and returned ready for the next week's homework tasks.
- Children will be expected to complete a minimum of four activities from the grid (in addition to weekly spelling and reading).
- Children have the opportunity to complete more tasks if they wish to do so. Some tasks will have an optional challenge that the children can complete to extend their learning further.
- Tasks provided should include creative learning opportunities, such as Art, Drama and PE.
- Additional activities may be set by class teachers at different times in relation to current topics or work being undertaken in class.

A breakdown of how homework is organised for each year group is provided on the following page. This has been designed to ensure there is a gradual progression of skills and expectation so that by the time children reach Primary 7 they have established a clear routine to help prepare them for high school.

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Homework structure by year group

Primary 1 (Early Level)

- Reading and sharing books daily with parents and carers and recording in the Home-School Reading record.
- Children will be given flashcards to practise phonic sounds and/or common words.
- Four week homework grid with ideas for parents to support learning through games and play opportunities.

Primary 2 – Primary 4 (First Level)

- Reading and sharing books with parents and carers weekly and recording in the Home-School Reading record.
- Children will be given flashcards to practise phonic sounds and/or common words in Primary 2 and some of Primary 3.
- Children will be given a list of spelling words to learn which will follow the spelling patterns taught in their spelling groups in Primary 3 and 4.
- Sumdog log-in to practise numeracy skills.
- Four week homework grid with some activities linked into the current IDL topic from class, as well as Art, PE or Drama activities.

Primary 5 – Primary 7 (Second Level)

- Reading set for the week, with children encouraged to develop greater independence of how to plan this out e.g. reading four times per week, with a reading activity linked into our Reading Skills Progression.
- Children will be given a list of spelling words to learn which will follow the spelling patterns taught in their spelling groups. They will be tested on these words regularly.
- Learning multiplication facts for all tables to aid quick recall.
- Sumdog log-in to practise numeracy skills.
- Four week homework grid with some activities linked into the current IDL topic from class, as well as Art, PE or Drama activities.
- Children may be asked to prepare for an individual class talk at points throughout the year.

Expectations for homework activities

Whilst we recognise that not all children enjoy completing homework activities, it is the expectation that all children will at least attempt to complete homework activities to the best of their ability. We are happy to discuss individual arrangements with parents, where appropriate. Dates for handing homework in are always made explicit by the class teacher. Children are expected to complete homework to the same high standards insisted on in class e.g. neat handwriting, accurate use of punctuation, underlining titles etc.

How you can help your child with their homework

You can help to support your child's homework by:

- Providing a suitable place in which your child can complete their homework, preferably with an adult to discuss, encourage and support and clear of distractions.
- Making it clear to your child that you value their effort to complete homework activities.
- Encouraging your child and praising them when they have completed work.
- Ensuring work is completed and returned to school on time.
- Checking your child spends a suitable amount of time on homework.

We recognise that the time you spend as a family outside of school is also very important in terms of your child's development. The ideas below are just some of the ways that you can further support your child to become independent, curious and keen to learn about the world around them.

- Visits to libraries, museums etc. to develop their cultural awareness.
- Cooking or baking with them which can help to develop mathematical skills such as measuring and weighing.
- Making a shopping list and using money in a real life context i.e. a visit to the supermarket.
- Teaching your child how to tie their shoe laces and to dress themselves without adult support.

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- Taking your child swimming and encouraging independence when dressing afterwards.
- Playing games, e.g. board games, cards, ball games to develop social skills and turn taking.
- Watching informative TV programmes together to develop their curiosity and awareness of the world around them.
- Providing opportunities for craft activities, e.g. cutting, sticking, sewing, and painting etc. to develop their creative skills.
- Gardening and growing plants to foster a love of nature.
- Using the internet to research something with your child to teach them about safer internet use and the reliability of information online.
- Talking to your child about schoolwork, their day, what they have been learning about and how they have been learning.
- Talking about their learning targets in school and how they can work on these further at home.

We hope you enjoy the opportunity to share in your child's learning, both in school and at home. It is important to have ongoing dialogue between school and home. If you have any difficulties with completing homework tasks, please speak to your child's class teacher.

And remember...

"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."
— Dr. Seuss