



February 2019

It is clear that appropriate homework consolidates learning, promotes independence and supports progress.

Aims:

- Ensure that parents are clear about what their child is expected to do.
- Ensure consistency of approach throughout the school.
- Use homework as a tool to help continue to raise standards of attainment and progress.
- Improve the quality of the learning experience offered to pupils and extend it beyond the classroom environment.
- Provide opportunities for parents, children and the school to work together in partnership in relation to children's learning.
- Encourage pupils and their parents to share and enjoy learning experiences.
- Reinforce work covered in class by providing further opportunities for individual learning.
- To practise or consolidate basic skills and knowledge, especially in maths and English.
- Encourage children to develop the responsibility, confidence and self-discipline needed to study independently.
- To prepare Year 6 pupils for their transfer to secondary school.

The Nature of Homework

It should be noted that homework can be set in many different forms with many different expectations and outcomes. It is important to remember that when expecting and setting homework there are a number of points to consider:-

1. All homework tasks and activities will have a clear purpose and assist pupils in the process of their academic development.
2. The nature and type of homework changes throughout a pupil's school career.
3. Amount and frequency of homework should increase as a pupil gets older.
4. Homework should not cause undue stress on the child, family or the teacher.
5. Homework will not necessarily come in the form of a written task.
6. Homework should be set regularly from the Foundation Stage to Year 6.
7. Homework should not introduce 'new' concepts which have not been covered in school.
8. As a general rule, we do not set homework during holidays although there may be some topic preparation tasks and children will be expected to continue to read.

Home Learning Policy

Homework Tasks

Daily

Throughout the school, children are expected to spend a little time at home reading and memorising number facts (especially number bonds to 10, 20, 100 and times tables) on a regular basis. These are essential skills which need regular practice to ensure fluency. This fluency is vital for future learning.

- **Reading**
Children will be provided with a reading book from the school library, and the class teacher will ensure that the routine for book changing is clear to the children and their parents. Children who are fluent readers are still expected to read regularly at home, but do not need to read aloud. They will benefit from discussing their reading at home: retelling the story, talking about the characters, predicting what might happen next or giving a personal opinion. Children are expected and are given the opportunity to take AR quizzes in school to support comprehension skills.
- **Number Facts.**
Children will be provided with a number fact booklet which ensures a steady progression through learning number bonds and times tables.

Weekly

Weekly homework tasks will be set on a Wednesday in every class and will be due to be handed in on the following Monday.

Foundation

- Reading daily (OR A MINIMUM OF 4 TIMES PER WEEK)
- Some additional tasks may be set eg learning a nursery rhyme, counting to 5 or a talking task

Key Stage One (these will be introduced gradually in year one)

- Spelling or phonics task
- Reading task

Year Three and Four

- Maths and a literacy task

Year Five and Six

- Reading response task
- Maths task
- Literacy task

In addition, **in Key Stage Two**, we encourage children to do some research about the class topic and they will be given the opportunity termly to present this to the class. Children may choose which aspect of the topic they focus on and how they present this: for example it may be a poster, painting, model, photo-montage, powerpoint or role-play.

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Homework tasks often require access to the internet. Where children do not have this facility at home, they will be given the opportunity to use the computers in school.

Rewards and sanctions

We recognise that, for many reasons, children may find it difficult to complete homework but, to encourage completion, children will be given 10 house points each week if their homework is completed and submitted on time. They may earn additional points, stickers, golden circles, etc, for the quality of the homework.

All homework will be responded to if submitted in time. If homework is given in after the due date, without good reason, it is at the discretion of the classteacher whether or not it is responded to.

When children in years 4-6 have not completed homework, they will be asked to stay in at lunchtime for 'Homework Catch-Up' on a Wednesday from 12:45pm to do so. The Headteacher will be available at this time to supervise but Classteachers are required to provide the relevant tasks. Where there are special circumstances which have made it difficult to complete the homework, parents are asked to contact us and we will respond accordingly.

Role of the Class Teacher

- To provide an explanation of homework tasks to parents when necessary and give guidance of how they might assist their child.
- Home-school books
- To set up regular homework in an easily followed routine.
- To ensure that homework is set consistently across classes.
- To ensure any homework is purposeful and links directly to the curriculum being taught, but does not introduce 'new' concepts.
- To reward and praise children who regularly complete homework tasks.
- To mark homework and give feedback to pupils.
- To ensure homework meets the needs of children and will take an appropriate length of time.
- To provide tasks as required for 'Homework Catch-Up' sessions.
- To be proactive in making arrangements with parents of children who regularly do not complete homework.

Role of the Headteacher and Governing Body

- To check compliance of the policy.
- To meet and talk with parents when appropriate.
- To discuss with staff how far the policy is being successfully implemented.
- To inform new parents to the school so that they are aware of the home/school agreement and what it entails.
- To review the policy and make amendments as necessary.

Home Learning Policy

Role of Parents/Carers

- Home-school books
- To support the school by ensuring that their child attempts the homework.
- To provide a suitable place for their child to carry out their homework.
- To encourage and praise their child when they have completed their homework.
- To become actively involved and support their child with homework activities.
- To make it clear that they value homework and they support the school by explaining how it can help learning.

At Moretonhampstead primary school we are very keen for parents to support and help their children with homework. We take the view that children are likely to get more out of an activity if parents get involved as long as they do not take over too much. However, there are times when we will want to see what children can do on their own. It is particularly important, as they get older, for children to become increasingly independent in their learning. If a parent is unsure about what their role should be, they should discuss it with their child's teacher.

General

- If children are absent due to illness we will not send homework home. We would assume the child was too ill to work.
- If a child is absent for a length of time, the teacher and the parent will agree what should be done, how it should be marked and what sort of help needs to be given.
- It is not possible to give homework when parents take holidays in term time.
- Parents/Carers who have queries about homework should not hesitate to make an appointment to see their child's class teacher.

Racial Equality & Equal Opportunities

All children have equal access and inclusive rights to the curriculum regardless of their gender, race, disability or ability. We plan work that is differentiated for the performance of all groups and individuals.

Review

This policy will be reviewed in Autumn Term 2020