

Holway Park Community Primary School
Homework Policy
March 2015

Parents/Carers and school working together as active partners is a central theme of the school. Having a workable, realistic and well understood homework policy is an important part of this partnership.

When making our decision about homework the school took into consideration the evidence and research findings of the Education Endowment Foundation. We regard homework as an opportunity for parents to develop a deeper understanding of their child's learning, a chance to share and explore learning started in school.

Effective homework is associated with greater parental involvement and support and can be developed to increase parental engagement. However, we also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development. While homework is important, it should not prevent children from taking part in the activities of various out-of-school clubs and of other organisations that play an important part in the lives of our pupils.

Tasks will be set which will involve parents/carers in joint activities as this is the most valuable in promoting children's learning. Regular reading to and with parents/carers is vital. Our suggestion is that all our primary aged children should either read to their parents/carers or to be read to, for between twenty and thirty minutes a day.

Another consideration Governors took into account was the workload balance for school staff. Our first priority as a school is high quality first teaching during the school day, this requires significant time for marking, assessing and planning future teaching and learning needs of the pupils. It was essential that the provision of homework did not provide an additional workload that would have a detrimental impact on this.

What is Homework?

Homework is anything children do outside the normal school day that contributes to their learning. It encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents/carers to support the children's learning. For example, parents or carers who spend time reading stories to their children before bedtime are helping with homework.

Our aim is to provide activities that require engagement with parents/carers and not provide worksheets to be completed in isolation.

The expectation is that children will complete their homework. However, if for any reason children are unable to complete their homework, parents or carers should provide the class teacher with a note or contact the class teacher explaining why the homework has not been completed on the day that the homework was due to be returned to school. Teachers will keep records of children completing homework and these records will be checked on a regular basis. There may be occasions where the child will miss some playtime or lunchtime, if they have not completed homework.

Types of homework

In Foundation Stage we believe that parents should read books to their child. Sharing books is just as valuable in aiding a child's progress in reading as is your child reading to you or to their teachers. The children also bring home their Learning Journals weekly and parents are encouraged to enter any experiences they have at home. Parents also receive a copy of the school handwriting style and are encouraged to practise this with their children.

In Key Stage 1 we ask parents to support their child through home learning. This includes reading daily for about twenty minutes. (Remember this can include sharing books and you reading to your child.)

In addition parents are given a list of high frequency words to practise with their children.

Parents are also given a copy of the school handwriting style and encouraged to practise this at home.

Maths games are also available for the children to take home and play.

Parents are also encouraged to teach their children their multiplication tables.

At Key Stage 2, we continue to ask parents to read and discuss with their child daily at home, guidance on how to do this is found in our Parents information leaflets on Reading at Home.

Children in Key Stage 2 are given a Research project to complete that extends their learning in school, this project has set success criteria and return date. Teachers mark this project in line with the success criteria.

Maths games are available for the children to take home and play with their family.

In year 6 as the SATs approach children may be given specific Maths and Reading tasks linked to these tests.

Available for parents are the high frequency words used in writing which parents can practise with their child. We also ask children to practise their multiplication tables at home.

In addition to the above a teacher may provide additional activities particularly for pupils with additional learning needs as and when they feel it to be appropriate, this will be discussed directly with the parent/carer.

The role of parents and carers

We ask parents and carers to encourage their child to complete the homework tasks that are set. We invite them to help their children as and when they feel it to be necessary and to provide them with the sort of environment that allows children to do their best. Parents and carers can support their child by providing a good working space at home, by enabling their child to visit the library regularly, and by discussing the work that their child is doing. Ideally parents should read with their children every day to help them develop a love of books and stories and help them to grow in confidence. We ask parents and carers to sign their child's Reading Record to show that they have heard their child read and discussed their books with them.