

Homework Policy

Belonging, Believing, Building a Future

It is our mission for everyone to experience the joy of God's love in their lives as part of St Peter's family through trust and friendships. We aim for everyone to be nurtured and to grow in peace, hope and understanding of God, themselves and one another in order to achieve and live fulfilled lives.

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit" (*Romans 15:13*)

The Value of learning at home

At St Peter's Infant School we value children and parents working together to support children's educational development through homework. We believe that learning at home is a key part of a child's learning and that working together promotes a lifelong love of learning. It is important that homework is recognised as including visits, swimming, being an active member of a club, as well as more academic activities.

Our aim is that regular, well-planned homework will:

- develop an appreciation that learning is not limited to school but takes place anywhere and throughout people's lives
- develop a positive partnership with the home and value the role of parents in children's learning
- encourage children to develop good work habits, personal organisation skills and the confidence and self-discipline to study independently
- encourage children's interests and self-motivation to learn
- encourage skills and attitudes which help children to improve their educational performance
- encourage use of resources other than those found in school
- provide a real life context for shared activities between parents and children

Roles and Responsibilities

Teachers' role:

- To discuss with parents how best they can support their child's next step in learning and offer parents opportunities to discuss their child's home learning at parent meetings
- To inform parents of the homework requirements for Year 1 and 2 at transition meetings and support the ways in which parents can help their children with their homework at parent meetings and through parent workshops
- To ensure that homework is differentiated as appropriate and given out weekly.
- To comment on the learning as appropriate – this may be through sharing in class, a verbal comment or discussion with the child.
- To provide a written comment, when appropriate.
- To support children and parents in completing the homework.
- To value all work completed at home and children's personal achievements

Parents' Role

- To ensure that homework is a positive experience
- To make every effort to ensure their child completes the homework in the allocated time
- To talk to teachers about any aspects of the homework which concerns them
- To comment on the homework as appropriate through written comments on the homework and in their child's reading record.

Children' Role

- To ensure that they have the relevant homework
- To hand in the homework on time

Learning at home

Learning at home will support curriculum work in school, reinforcing and consolidating understanding and giving children an opportunity to show parents what they have done in school.

The amount and types of homework set will vary for different year groups.

The importance of children being able to read has a direct impact on all areas of the curriculum. Given this belief, we expect all children at St Peter's to engage in books at home on a daily basis. Over time this should include a range of genre such as fiction, non-fiction, comics, magazines etc. Reading can be with the child, to the child or the child reading to the parent and should include discussion about the book beyond just the reading of the words for example parents questioning the child on the text, story line and characters. Parents should write comments about their child's reading in the reading record, following the guidance provided in the front of the reading record.

Reception / Foundation Class

In addition to reading daily, other pieces of homework may be set. The following are examples of possible types of homework:

- Work on recognising high frequency words
- Sound work – single letters and letter groups
- Practicing the formation of letters or numerals
- Number work – recognising and ordering numerals, counting

Occasionally, children in the Foundation Stage may be given other homework to support their learning at school. They may also take part in whole school homework activities.

Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2)

Weekly homework focuses on reading, learning spellings and a mathematical activity.

In addition to daily reading, children bring home a weekly set of words to learn to read and spell and a maths related activity that may be written, practical or using ICT.

It is expected that the maths activity should typically not take longer than 20 minutes. If children have not managed to complete homework within this timescale they the parent should make a note for the teacher.

Other homework may include:

1. gathering information/resources in readiness for future lessons,
2. learning facts e.g. spelling, number facts
3. completing unfinished work or further research
4. use of ICT to research topics or reinforce skills

To support children's learning, it is vital that there is a dialogue between parents, teachers and children concerning the child's learning. Comments should be written on the work by parents providing the teacher with information about the child's engagement and how much support has had to be given.