



The Meadows
Primary School

Homework Policy

October 2019

Review date October 2021

Homework Policy

At The Meadows Primary, we define homework as an activity set by school that pupils undertake outside of school lesson time, either on their own or with the support of family members. At The Meadows Primary, we have a strong commitment to parental involvement and see homework as one way of developing this partnership.

Our Aims

At The Meadows Primary School, we will set homework that:-

- Is purposeful and meets individual needs.
- gives the children the opportunity to practice learning and revise skills that have been taught in school

Homework at our school

Whilst we support the above aims, the staff at The Meadows Primary School believe that homework should not dominate home and school life. We accept that not every activity will capture children and parents' imagination and that weekends can sometimes be busy. We believe that homework should be enjoyable and manageable for all concerned and that if it becomes a chore/burden/source of conflict it ceases to be a constructive aspect of teaching and learning.

We do not specify amounts of time that must be spent on a task, preferring individual children and families to set their own routines. Individual teachers are happy to give advice.

We hope the children are motivated by positive incentives and by the tasks themselves; children are not punished if they fail to complete the work. However discreet homework registers are kept and if a child consistently fails to complete and return tasks, this is discussed with the child and their parents.

Our routines and expectations

English

Spelling and Reading Homework

Reception

Children in Reception will get phonic flashcards to practise at home to link in with the sounds being taught in class. This will count as part of the reading homework.

In addition to this, children will have a letter formation sheet to complement the sounds learnt in class which will be kept in a separate phonics book.

From January, children will get 3-5 spellings a week to practise at home. These will be put into a spelling journal on a Friday and children are expected to practise these spellings at home. These words will predominantly be high frequency words and common exception words and will complement the words being taught in class.

Children are expected to read at least 4 times a week and this should be recorded in the reading diary by parents/carers.

Year 1 and Year 2

The children in these classes will get between 3-5 weekly spellings to learn at home. These will be put into a spelling journal on a Friday and children are expected to practise these spellings at home. These words will predominantly be high frequency words and common exception words but may also include words that the class teacher has noticed need consolidating.

In school each Friday, the class teacher will look in the journals and will expect to see evidence that spellings have been practised at home. Children will not be formally tested each week in school but we hope that this homework will help them to apply the correct spellings in their independent writing.

Children are expected to read at least 4 times a week and this should be recorded in the reading diary by parents/carers.

Years 3, 4, 5 and 6

The children in these classes will have between 5-8 spellings each week. These will be words identified by the class teacher, over the course of a week, that the child has misspelt during independent writing and therefore need to be learnt.

These spellings will be written into a spelling journal by the child and will be sent home each Friday. The class teacher will expect to see evidence in spelling journals every Friday morning that the spellings have been practised.

Children will not be formally tested each week on these spellings but we hope that this homework will help them to apply the correct spellings in their independent writing.

Children are expected to read at least 4 times a week and this should be recorded in the reading diary by parents/carers.

Maths

Number Facts and Times Tables Practice

Reception

Children in Reception year will not be given explicit maths homework but will instead be encouraged to find and experience mathematics in the world around them. Parents will be given guidance on the sorts of language and concepts (number recognition, counting, money, shape names, time, etc.) to discuss and involve children in daily.

KS1

When starting Year 1 children will be given a short mathematics assessment, which will inform the level at which they begin their 'Meadows Mathematics Milestones' (MMM) homework. Following this assessment, children will be given a sheet explaining which skill they should practice and investigate at home. Children will be expected to practice this skill on the back of their previous sheet, ready for a test each Monday.

Following the test, children will take home their sheet in their mathematics homework file, which will indicate depending on the child's performance, whether more practice of the skill is required or which skill they are moving on to next.

There are 27 skills in MMM, which children will progress through during year 1 and 2. Once children have completed this, they will move on to Ultimate Times Tables 2s, 10s and 5s.

KS2

When transitioning from Year 2 to Year 3, we aim for all children to be accessing Ultimate Times Tables, although some children may continue to work through MMM.

Ultimate Times Tables

Ultimate Times Tables is a set of forty questions based on a times table, which test recall of facts, divisions and fractions. Children will be introduced to the format through their weekly Times Tables learning, which is timetabled daily from Y2 up.

Children will sit their Times Table test on a Monday. Following the test, children will take home their sheet in their mathematics homework file, which will indicate depending on the child's performance, whether more practice of the table is required or which table they are moving on to next.

Progression

We aim for children to progress through the Ultimate Tables by year group as those facts are taught in class. Where children fall behind their class progression, they must continue to follow the progression as written.

Y2 – 2s, 10s, 5s

Y3 – 3s, 4s, 8s

Y4 – 6s, 7s, 9s, 11s, 12s

The National Curriculum expectation is that children are able to recall all times tables facts up to 12x12 by the end of Y4. Years 5 and 6 will therefore be used for consolidation and application of the facts. Ultimate tables caters for progression through Bronze, Silver, Gold, Platinum and Kryptonite, which require children to apply their knowledge to mixed tables sheets, to fractions, to larger multiples and finally to decimals.

Timing

Children will be given 5 minutes to complete their MMM sheets.

When completing Ultimate Tables, children may be limited to 5 minutes; however, this must be balanced against the needs of each child.

Teaching Time

Teachers will use their timetabled sessions to teach number facts and Times Tables practice. Where classes have children accessing tables at a range of levels, differentiation of teaching is required and children should be taught to their area of need.

Celebration

Children will be expected to show evidence of practice in their file. Children will be celebrated for the effort they have put into practice, not their attainment.

Topic homework

At the Meadows we hope that your child gets fully immersed in their topic themes each half term. We know that many children like to build upon the knowledge they have gathered in class as they have become inspired by subjects covered. Prior to the start of each new topic, we will send home ideas for projects and learning opportunities that you can create with and participate in, together with your child. These range from day trips, to building creations, to writing and research opportunities.

Children are encouraged to share any topic home-learning with their class to enable it to be celebrated.