



The Meadows
Primary School

Home Learning Policy

March 2025

Review date March 2027

Home Learning 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 home learning 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

Home Learning at our school

Whilst we support the above aims, the staff at The Meadows Primary School believe that home learning 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 home learning 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 but will be asked to complete it during school time. Home learning is monitored by staff 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 Home Learning

Reception

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

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 book 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 their reading diaries on a Monday and children are expected to practise these spellings at home. This can be done in their reading diary or in the blue spelling book. 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 Monday, the class teacher will look in the reading diary/spelling book 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 home learning 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

At The Meadows, We use the online homework programme DoodleMaths. This programme is designed to meet the needs of the individual and the algorithms structure a personalised learning programme for each child. Teachers monitor this on a weekly basis and the class with the highest percentage of children in the green zone are awarded a weekly certificate. See the Doodle Information leaflet for further details of rewards and expectations. Our vision is to encourage and reward effort over attainment. Parents will be given all necessary information in order to access DoodleMaths.

Number Facts and Times Tables Practice EYFS

Children in EYFS will be given DoodleMaths logins and will be encouraged to stay in the green zone by completing their weekly amount of stars as their homework. This will start in Term 3 for learners in EYFS. A DoodleMaths Information sheet will be supplied for parents.

Children will also 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.

Key Stage 1

When starting Year 1 children will already be familiar with their homework as it will be DoodleMaths. Children are expected to stay in the green zone with their weekly stars. They can achieve this by logging onto their DoodleMaths accounts regularly, we recommend 5-10 minutes each day. Teachers will monitor that children are accessing their Doodle accounts and assess their progress. Children in year 2 will also be encouraged to use DoodleTables and TT rockstars as they can embed their practice of counting in 2s, 5s and 10s.

Key Stage 2

Children in key stage 2 will all continue to use DoodleMaths as their homework. They are expected to 'stay in the green' and this is achieved by completing their weekly amount of target stars. Once children have completed their daily learning, they can then gather further stars by accessing the games tabs.

Key stage 2 children are required to practise their times tables as well. This can be achieved either by using DoodleTables (earning their target stars) or TT Rockstars (completing their expected time on the app) All elements of homework are monitored by the class teacher and they can assess progress of children in the class.

Progression

The National Curriculum expectation is that children are able to recall all Times tables facts up to 12x12 by the end of Year 4. DoodleMaths and DoodleTables cater for this. Year 5 and 6 are able to access deepening questions on DoodleTables and those children secure with their Times tables up to 12x12 can be challenged further on TTRockstars with tables beyond 12.

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

Teachers will monitor children's maths homework. For Doodle Maths there will be a weekly certificate and a raffle ticket for the top Doodle class of the week, with a termly prize draw.

Topic Home Learning

At the Meadows we hope that your child gets fully immersed in their topic themes each 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. If your child enjoys projects and would like to send in additional home learning linked to their learning then the teachers will happily celebrate this in class.