

Governors Meeting date	Minute number	Amendments
22 nd may 2017	2246	Added in KS2 information Multiplication tests Recommended amount of time for homework for KS1 and KS2
15 th July 2021		Reading at KS2 and signing the book Pre teaching activities
23 rd May 2022		Spelling tests are no longer undertaken



Homework Policy St Oswald's C.E. Primary School

Reviewed June 2021

Our policy for homework has been discussed and consulted upon via questionnaires from parent's, staff and governors. Outlined through this policy are our main considerations.

- Young children learn through experience, fun and active participation not just formal tasks so we want to make homework fun and exciting.
- Excessive homework is not good for very young learners; our children are often tired at the end of a very busy and active school day, therefore the amount of homework gradually increases as children get older.
- Many children have activities and clubs they attend after school and we actively encourage this which enables the children to broaden their skills, and creativity.
- Homework is a partnership between school and home we actively encourage fun and enjoyment on homework projects.
- The DFE suggest 1 hour a week is adequate for Key Stage 1 children and increasing each year in Key Stage 2
- All homework set should deepen understanding support any pre teaching activities and compliment the learning within the classroom.

We believe that a regular homework pattern at home is the best way for your child to continue to develop. It enables you to support their learning journey. Homework is a partnership between school and home.

Why is homework important?

- It raises your child's achievement.
- It helps promote and develop the skills of an independent learner.
- It allows children to consolidate and reinforce the learning done in school, allowing children to practice skills taught in lessons.
- It helps to inform you about your child's school work and allows you the opportunity to support this work.
- It is a valuable life skill and develops good work habits for the future.
- It prepares children for their next phase of educational development.

What homework do we give out at St Oswald's?

Reading

In EYFS and Key Stage 1 Children have a reading book which is in their folder every night. They are heard read twice a week at school by both teachers and teaching assistants and the child's book is changed regularly. We ask you as parents, to hear your child read 10 minutes every night. Little and often is the key. Stories and books enrich the children's creative minds they support with writing and aid spelling and grammar development. If you as the parent struggle to hear your child read then please ask a grandparent, neighbour, friend to hear them. Once you have heard your child read it is essential you sign the homework diary and fill in the comment box. By doing this we are able to see the reading routine which is established at home and support as and where necessary.

In Key Stage 2 reading is still of great importance, in school we listen to the children once a week and undertake 1 Guided Reading session; reading with your child daily remains crucial. Building up their reading skills by asking questions which allow your child to infer and question develops their knowledge of the text. Children continue to follow the book banded reading scheme and then are able to choose from the free reading scheme once they have completed the book band reading scheme

The Home School Diary is a great form of communication. Not only will it be used for reading but it will also be used as a communication tool between home and school.

Please ensure that you sign your child's reading diary when they read at home. As the pupils move into Upper Key Stage 2 the reading becomes more independent. Please continue to sign to say that your child has read their book.

Sounds and Keywords

In Reception and Year 1 sounds and key words are sent home. This supports the child's reading development and their writing development. In Key Stage 1 and 2 developing your child's vocabulary can be done through your child's reading book. If they do not understand the meaning of a word encourage them to use a dictionary to find out what it means.

Maths Challenges are sent home for the EYFs children in in the spring and summer term. Maths Homework is sent fortnightly for Key stage 1 children and is linked to the work completed within the class. At key stage 2 maths homework is sent home weekly. Children are also encouraged to learn their times tables at home on a weekly basis.

Multiplication; there will be times table tests weekly. Children will be expected to know their times tables. This enables them to be fluent mathematicians. These will take the form of Speedy Tables, times table challenges, etc...

Homework Folders

In Key Stage 1 and 2 Home work folders will be sent home. Please keep this in your child's book bag. Home work will be given via sheets linked to the learning in the class this week. It could be numeracy work, writing or topic work, or both! In Key Stage 2 Maths and English/topic will be sent home weekly.

Spellings

We no longer have the weekly spelling test in school. The Spelling lists for each year group are shared with families at the beginning of the year and are on the specific class page. It is important that your child is able to spell these words so practicing over the year is important.

Targets

Targets are sent home with your child at the end of each term. In EYFS the targets will be linked to number, sound work or key words and in Key Stage 1 and 2 will be linked to reading, writing and numeracy. These need to be worked on regularly at home. They help to support the work that is happening within the classroom environment.

Topic

We follow the Cornerstones curriculum. A piece of homework is sent out prior to the start of the topic- this is usually done during a holiday period; children are encouraged to share this with their class developing their speaking and listening skills. Some activities may be given during various topics which will enrich their education. Activities will be given which promote the creative curriculum. When you see the new topic highlighted in the newsletter please encourage your child to find out about the topic, enjoy it with them so they have a

thirst for knowledge with regards to it. Further information about topics is found on the school website.

Personalised Learning

We encourage artefacts and objects to be brought in from home. By doing this we are able to promote speaking and listening amongst the children in the class. We value and are always interested in the children's lives outside school and will always try to value news, photos, diaries, postcards that they choose to bring into school and share with us.

When is the best time to do homework?

Homework should not be done in a rush. If your child is upset or tired please leave it for another evening. It is important to set aside 10 minutes for you and your child. The TV should be switched off. It should be done to suit your family's routine.

Things you can do to help you child learn

1. Give your child confidence through lots of praise and encouragement. You have tremendous power to strengthen your child's confidence- and confidence is vital to learning.
2. Read to and with your child as much as possible.
3. Encourage your child to observe and talk about what they see, feel, think, etc...
4. Make use of your local library.
5. Visit museums and other places you think your child might find interesting.
6. Try to provide a reasonably quiet and suitable place where your child can work and show that you and all members of the family value and respect the homework activity.
7. Try to set time aside to support your child's homework activities whilst also allowing some independence where appropriate.
8. Encourage your child to discuss homework with you, including feedback from teachers.
9. Make the homework fun and enjoyable.

For Key Stage 1 pupils we recommend:

- Children complete homework in short daily sessions "A little and often" .
- Children complete homework through fun- enabling their emotions or enthusiasm and excitement to help them learn avoiding emotions of fear and anxiety. The use of rewards is important for motivation.
- Children completing homework together with adults or other older siblings to encourage a supportive culture whereby pupils understand they always have help at hand.

- Children share their homework with other family members as learning is enhanced by sharing with others.

For Key Stage 2 children we recommend:

- Children complete their homework early in the week on their own to take responsibility for developing their independent learning skills and personal time management skills. If children require extra help to complete their homework then support can be given by the teacher or teaching assistant within the class.
- Children should ask for an adult or older sibling to check/help them complete their homework mid-week. This is a very important opportunity to develop a child's self-checking and review skills. At first the child may be quite adult dependent but during the course of the year as the child grows in confidence and independence they will require less support
- Children should hand in their homework on the day prescribed on the piece of homework.

Rewards for completion of homework

Each class teacher keeps a register of completed homework. This helps to monitor children's attitudes and achievement and helps inform discussions with parents. Children who complete homework are rewarded in line with the school behaviour policy.

Procedures for incomplete homework at Key Stage 2;

Children who do not complete their homework or who have not spent the recommended time trying to complete their homework will be provided time in school to finish it. This will be during a lunch time or a break time..

Parents will be notified by letter if their child regularly fails to submit homework.

Review date.....July2022

Signed Chair of Governors

Minute Number;