

St Mary's C.E.(A) Primary School, Muckleston
Home Learning Policy
Written - Autumn Term 2015
Due for review - Autumn Term 2017

We define home learning as any activity that pupils undertake outside of school lesson time, either on their own or with the support of family members. At St Mary's we have a strong commitment to parental involvement and see home learning as one way of developing this partnership.

Why give home learning tasks?

- It can inform parents about work going on in class;
- It can further stimulate enthusiasm for learning;
- It takes advantage of the home environment and resources and the chance for some one to one adult time;
- It can be a great source for gathering topic information to share with all the children;
- It is a great opportunity to rehearse key skills such as times tables, doubling facts, addition sums, spellings, handwriting and other key facts;
- It helps to foster good habits of organization and self-discipline in preparation for the demands of Secondary School.

Home Learning at our school

Whilst we support all of the above key principles, St Mary's is not a school at which home learning dominates 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.

As a guide we suggest that children spend the following time on home learning:-

Class 1 - Reception and year 1 - 50 minutes a week

Class 2 - Year 2 and Year 3 - 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours per week

Class 3 - Year 4,5 and 6 - 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 hrs per week

We hope the children are motivated by positive incentives and by the tasks themselves; All children are expected to complete their home learning tasks and home learning registers are kept. If a child consistently fails to complete and return tasks, this is discussed with the child and their parents.

Our routines and expectations - (current Autumn 2015)

Class 2 home learning is given out on a Wednesday for return the following Monday. Classes 3 and 1 give out weekly home learning on a Friday and it is expected to be returned by the following Wednesday.

The work will have been explained and discussed in class before coming home; it may be a continuation of classwork, a maths or literacy task already familiar to your child or a topic based task. It is our intention, and good practice, not to send work home that the child cannot already do i.e. parents are not expected to teach new skills.

There will be a clear explanation/reminder from the teacher of what is expected.

Each child has a home learning book and the majority of tasks are kept in there.

The tasks set will not always need to be handed in; there are other ways in which teachers will respond or give feedback, for example, sharing results in class discussion, putting work onto a display or transferring work into class books.

Broadly speaking these are current expectations:

Class 1 - daily reading, learning key words and engaging with a weekly topic related task to be done alongside your child.

Class 2 - daily reading, learn spellings and times tables (for a weekly test) plus weekly home learning that alternates between maths and English/topic. Again, many of the tasks will involve paired work with your child! Children may sometimes be asked to research a topic.

Class 3 - daily reading, weekly times tables (for a weekly test), spellings and a longer weekly task alternating between English/topic and maths. Occasionally extended projects running for a few weeks will be set.

Occasionally the school sets a whole school home learning task.

We expect children to maintain the same standards for presentation of homework as we set in school i.e. to use their best handwriting and a sharp pencil or black pen.

Increasingly teachers are using the web for homework. This may be directing children and parents to play a specific game from e.g Education City or Espresso or guided to particular websites .

From the start of the Spring term, prior to SAT tests, the Year 6 children will be given additional revision work.

Class teachers may set research projects over the school holidays and children may complete a holiday diary over the summer holiday.

What to do if you have concerns

If you find the homework inappropriate for your child, if they lack interest, if it becomes a battleground or if you are concerned that homework is given inconsistently please talk with your child's teacher in the first instance.

If you still have concerns, please talk with the Headteacher.

This policy was prepared by the staff, shared and discussed with the Governor Curriculum Committee and discussed with the School Council.