



Mornington Primary School

Homework Policy

Introduction

At Mornington we believe that education is a life-long process. A child's education does not cease when he or she leaves our school premises, learning at home is an essential part of good education. Homework is defined as any additional activity that children do outside the normal school day that contributes to their learning. Homework encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents/carers to support the children's learning.

Homework plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment. However, we also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development. While homework is important, it should not prevent children from taking part in the activities of various out-of-school clubs and of other organisations that play an important part in the lives of our pupils.

Aims of the Policy

- To ensure consistency of approach to homework throughout the school.
- To ensure progression towards independence and individual responsibility.
- To ensure parents/carers have a clear understanding about expectations for themselves and the pupils.
- To extend and support learning.
- To provide opportunities for parents and pupils to work in partnership and enjoy learning experiences.
- To ensure that teachers, parents and children are fully aware of the role they play with regard to homework.

The role of staff members in supporting this policy:

- To provide a range of homework tasks and activities to consolidate and extend learning in class.
- To ensure children have a clear understanding of the task they have been given.
- To communicate with parents and keep them informed of their child's progress, projects and units studied in class and individual tasks set.

The role of parents/carers in supporting their children:

- To provide the appropriate environmental and resources for children to successfully complete their homework task.
- To provide encouragement and support when it is needed and support the school in explaining and valuing homework, ensuring a high standard of completion at all times.
- Be actively involved in the homework and give praise when completed.
- To ensure activities are completed and handed in on time.
- Sharing with school any issues arising from homework.

The role of the child in completing homework tasks:

- To ensure they have a clear understanding of tasks set and they have the appropriate resources to complete the task.
- To take pride in their presentation and content, acknowledging the high personal standard expected.
- To be organised, to look after and return completed tasks on the agreed dates.

Providing feedback on tasks completed at home.

It is our aim, wherever possible, to provide children with feedback on homework tasks in a way that lets the child know how well they have done and what they need to do to improve. Feedback needs to be given promptly and may be given in a variety of ways e.g.

- Verbal response
- Class discussion
- Tests e.g. Spellings or times tables
- Comments on written tasks
- Pupil / peer evaluation
- Presentation of work in class and/or school assembly

How much homework?

We increase the amount of homework that we give the children as they move through the school. We encourage children in Key Stage 1 to spend approximately one hour a week doing homework, although this may well include reading with a parent. We encourage children in Years 3 and 4 to spend approximately one and a half hours on homework per week, and children in Years 5 and 6 to spend approximately 30 minutes per night. This helps to prepare children for the transition to secondary education and the increased amount of homework expected. These are only recommendations and may change from time to time. These guidelines are in line with the Government's recommended time allocation.

Foundation stage

- Reading:** Learning together is the emphasis for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and so regular reading at home is encouraged. Parents' reading to their child is essential in modelling the skills needed to become independent readers and to foster a love of books. When children are ready they will bring home a Guided Reading book which should be shared at home regularly.
- Phonics:** Children will also bring home a phonics based activity which will support the letter sounds they have been working on in class that week. These will include games to play at home and fun, interactive activities to consolidate the learning in class.
As the children become more confident they will have a small list of key words/spelling words to practice spelling and reading at home.
- Numeracy:** The children will have a weekly maths activity. This is a simple, fun activity for parents and children to complete together to develop their mathematical understanding.

Year 1 and 2

- Reading:** Reading on a regular basis is vital when children are in KS1. Children will bring a book home every evening and the role of the adult is to listen and support them for approximately 10 minutes per night. Each classroom will have a reading reward scheme where children are encouraged and praised for sharing a book at home. Children will also have a weekly guided reading session in school.
- Phonics:** Children will have a weekly list of spellings to learn at home. These will link to spelling patterns taught in school and key words.
- Homework folder:** Children will each have a folder which will be sent home every week. The homework will mainly focus on mathematics, however there may be an English or Inquiry based piece of work.

Year 3 and 4

- Reading:** Children will have a weekly guided reading session in school. Children are encouraged to read at home on a regular basis, with a reading reward scheme in place where children are rewarded for sharing a book at home.
- Spellings:** Children have a list of spelling words (containing both a taught spelling pattern and suitable high frequency words) to learn at home for a weekly spelling test.
- Weekly task:** The children will have a weekly activity to consolidate work completed in class. This will focus on either English, Maths or Inquiry. This will need to be returned to school where appropriate feedback will be given. The children will also need to learn a specified times table at home in preparation for weekly times table tests.

Year 5 and 6

- Reading:** Children will have a weekly guided reading session in school. Children are encouraged to read at home on a regular basis, with a reading reward scheme in place where children are rewarded for choosing to independently access a book at home.
- Spellings:** Children have a list of spelling words (containing both a taught spelling pattern and suitable high frequency words) to learn at home for a weekly spelling test.
- Inquiry/English:** The children will have a weekly piece of English or Inquiry work to complete at home. This will consolidate learning in class. It will be clearly labelled with a hand in date and feedback will be given in the appropriate form.
- Mathematics:** The children will have a weekly maths activity to consolidate work completed in class. This will need to be returned to school where appropriate feedback will be given.

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