

## **LOWTON WEST PRIMARY SCHOOL HOMEWORK POLICY**

### **Rationale for Homework**

Homework is an important part of a child's education, and can add much to a child's learning, whilst helping parents/carers to understand what their child is learning in school.

We see homework as an important example of co-operation between teachers and parents/carers and a way for parents/ carers to support their child's learning at home. One of the aims of our teaching is for children to develop as independent learners and we believe that doing homework is one of the main ways in which children can acquire the skill of independent learning.

Homework plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment and helps them to develop a positive attitude to learning. 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. We are well aware that children spend more time at home than at school, and we believe that they develop their interests and skills to the full when parents/carers encourage them to make maximum use of the opportunities available outside school.

At Lowton West Primary School, every child will be given compulsory homework to complete and hand in each week for their teacher to mark. On occasions, children may be given optional homework tasks (e.g. researching a particular science or history topic). Whilst we encourage children to complete their homework independently where possible, we do ask that parents/ carers check the homework completed and, if needed, support their child with their homework (or certain aspects of their homework).

### **Aims and Objectives**

The aims and objectives of homework at Lowton West Primary School are:

- to consolidate and reinforce the learning done in school;
- to allow children to practice and extend skills taught in lessons;
- to enable some aspects of the curriculum to be further explored;
- to enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development;
- to help pupils develop the skills of an independent learner;
- to promote cooperation between home and school in supporting each child's learning;
- to help children develop good working habits for the future.

## Setting of Homework

Homework throughout the whole of the school is set every Friday and expected to be handed in by the following Thursday. This attempts to address both views of parents – those who like the weekend to complete homework and those who prefer to have weekends for family time only.

**In Year 6**, pupils will also be sent home a Maths Skills sheet on a Monday in preparation for a re-test on the Friday of the same week.

In classes where statutory assessments take place, homework near these periods may differ from the schedule outlined below - depending upon the needs of the children - and is at the discretion of each class teacher.

## Types of Homework

Staff and pupils regard homework as an integral part of the curriculum – it is planned and prepared alongside all other programmes of learning. It is expected that:

- Maths and Literacy homework will be sent home each week, on a Friday, to be completed then handed in on a Thursday.
- Spelling homework will be sent home each week, on a Friday, to be tested on the following Friday. The spelling homework sheet should be returned to school. Children can also practise their spellings using the School Spelling App by logging in via the school website.
- Children are expected to read at least three times a week at home and have their Reading Diary signed by a parent/ carer.
- Children from Year 2 upwards are expected to practise their Times Tables at home when possible (using the programme TT Rock Stars).
- Other types of homework may include extra preparation for KS1 and KS2 SATs and/ or research for a topic.

## Early Years Foundation Stage

Children will be given handwriting homework (letter formations), phonemes and key words to take home, which they should practise regularly – these may be different for children within the class.

We ask that parents listen to their children read **at least three times a week**. We also believe that parents should read books to their child. Sharing books is just as valuable in aiding a child's progress in reading as is your child reading to you, or to their teachers and by taking your child to the library.

The children will also be given a Maths task linked to their learning in school.

Parents/ Carers will be encouraged to capture 'WOW' moments at home and send them into school (details of this are provided at the 'Year Ahead' meetings at the start of the academic school year). Parents can also add their child's achievements to the 'Tapestry' app.

## **Key Stage One**

### **Year 1**

#### **Reading**

We ask that parents/ carers listen to their children read **at least three times a week** (for approximately 5 – 10 minutes per read). This should be recorded in their Reading Record and the Reading Record signed and dated.

NB: We also believe that parents should read books to their child. Sharing books is just as valuable in aiding a child's progress in reading as is your child reading to you, or to their teachers and by taking your child to the library.

In Year 1, Reading may also include reading specific phonics/keywords assigned by the class teacher – these may be different for children within the class.

#### **Spellings**

Children will be given a weekly spelling sheet to complete using the 'Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check' format. The children will then be expected to choose 3 of the spellings and write a sentence which includes that particular word (i.e. write 3 sentences – one sentence per word). It is expected that children will produce their neatest handwriting for each sentence and will remember to put a capital letter at the start of each sentence and a full stop at the end of each sentence. This will support with basic sentence structure. Later in the academic year, many children may be expected to write five sentences instead of just three.

Children can practise their spellings via the School Spelling App by logging on via the school website.

Following the spelling test on a Friday, the spelling book will be sent home so that parents/ carers can see what their child has achieved in their test at school. It is important that the spelling books are returned to school promptly after the weekend.

NB: Later in the academic year, children may also be given a literacy task to complete via a Literacy Homework book.

#### **Maths**

Children will be given a Maths task to complete. This will usually be a section/ sections of the Maths Homework book to complete, but may also be a maths worksheet to complete or a practical maths activity. The homework will link to your child's learning in school.

#### **Optional tasks**

Optional tasks may be set for the other areas of learning. These will be practical e.g. go for a walk and take photographs of different types of houses including a terraced, semi-detached etc and bring them into school to share in our Geography lesson.

## **Year 2**

### **Reading**

We ask that parents/ carers listen to their children read **at least three times a week** (for approximately 5 – 10 minutes per read). This should be recorded in their Reading Record and the Reading Record signed and dated.

NB: We also believe that parents should read books to their child. Sharing books is just as valuable in aiding a child's progress in reading as is your child reading to you, or to their teachers and by taking your child to the library.

In Year 2, Reading may also include reading specific phonics/keywords assigned by the class teacher – these may be different for children within the class.

### **Spellings**

Children will be given a weekly spelling sheet to complete using the 'Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check' format. The children will then be expected to choose 5 of the spellings and write a sentence which includes that particular word (i.e. write 5 sentences – one sentence per word). It is expected that children will produce their neatest handwriting for each sentence and will remember to put a capital letter at the start of each sentence and a full stop at the end of each sentence. This will support with basic sentence structure.

Children can practise their spellings via the School Spelling App by logging on via the school website.

Following the spelling test on a Friday, children's incorrect spellings are highlighted on the 'Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check' sheet and this is sent home so that parents/ carers can see what their child has achieved in their test at school.

### **Literacy Task**

Children will be given a Literacy task to complete. This will usually be a section/ sections of the Literacy Homework book to complete and will usually focus on punctuation, spelling and grammar. However, it may also be a Literacy worksheet to complete or a practical Literacy activity. The homework will link to your child's learning in school.

### **Maths Task**

Children will be given a Maths task to complete. This will usually be a section/ sections of the Maths Homework book to complete, but may also be a maths worksheet to complete or a practical maths activity. The homework will link to your child's learning in school.

Children from Year 2 upwards are expected to practise their Times Tables at home when possible (using the programme TT Rock Stars).

Children may be asked to practise a particular skill at home (such as number bonds or 'time').

### **Optional tasks**

Tasks may be set for the other areas of learning. These may be written or practical e.g. can you find out any information about our new geography topic. We also set homework as a means of helping the children to prepare for statutory tests, (i.e. the Year 2 SATs).

## **Key Stage 2**

### **Years 3 – 6**

#### **Reading**

We ask that parents/ carers listen to their children read **at least three times a week** (for approximately 5 – 10 minutes per read). This should be recorded in their Reading Record and the Reading Record signed and dated. Children are also encouraged to independently make comments in their Reading Diaries, but the Reading Diary still needs to be signed by a parent/ carer and parents/ carers are still encouraged to also make comments in their child's Reading Diary from time to time.

In Years 3-6, Reading may also include, for some pupils, reading specific phonics/keywords assigned by the class teacher – these may be different for children within the class.

#### **Maths Task**

Children will be given a Maths task to complete. This will usually be a section/ sections of the Maths Homework book to complete, but may also be a maths worksheet to complete or a practical maths activity. The homework will link to your child's learning in school.

Children from Year 2 upwards are expected to practise their Times Tables at home when possible (using the programme TT Rock Stars).

**In Year 6**, pupils will also be sent home a Maths Skills sheet on a Monday in preparation for a re-test on the Friday of the same week.

#### **Literacy Task**

Children will be given a Literacy task to complete. This will usually be a section/ sections of the Literacy Homework book to complete and will usually focus on punctuation, spelling and grammar. However, it may also be a Literacy worksheet to complete or a practical Literacy activity. The homework will link to your child's learning in school.

#### **Spellings: Years 3 - 5**

Children will be given a weekly spelling sheet to complete using the 'Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check' format.

Children can practise their spellings via the School Spelling App by logging on via the school website. The children will also be introduced to the 'Spelling Shed' programme.

Following the spelling test on a Friday, the spelling book will be sent home so that parents/ carers can see what their child has achieved in their test at school. It is important that the spelling books are returned to school promptly after the weekend.

#### **Spellings: Year 6**

Year 6 pupils will be given their list of weekly spellings via the school's Reading Diary/ Planner and should learn them for the test on the Friday.

Children can practise their spellings via the School Spelling App by logging on via the school website.

In Years 3 and 4, following the spelling test on a Friday, the spelling book will be sent home so that parents/ carers can see what their child has achieved in their test at school. It is important that the spelling books are returned to school promptly after the weekend.

In Years 5 and 6, the spelling scores will be written in the KS2 Reading Diary/ Planners, alongside the words that have been spelt incorrectly.

### **Optional tasks**

Tasks may be set for the other areas of learning. These may be written or practical e.g. can you find out any information about our new history/ geography/ science topic. We also set homework as a means of helping the children to prepare for statutory tests, (i.e. the Year 6 SATs).

### **Expectations for Homework**

All children are expected to complete their homework to the best possible standard – the standards and effort they present during lesson time and in the homework should be exactly the same. Teachers will regularly compare standards of work completed both at home and in class books.

For those children who complete homework to a standard equivalent to that in class, they will receive praise and awards, e.g. stickers, house points, etc...

In Key Stage 2 (Years 3-6), the children will have their Reading Diary/ Planner stamped if the weekly homework has been completed.

### **Presentation Expectations-Writing**

It is expected, where possible, that your child uses a pencil to complete his/ her homework.

### **Marking of Homework**

Written homework which is handed in on the correct day, will be marked before the next week's homework is issued. However, if homework is returned late, then there will be no guarantee it will be marked. In Year 5 and Year 6, some of the homework will be marked by the child (during a whole class session and under the supervision of the teacher) so that staff able to immediately address any misconceptions with the children.

### **Inclusion and Homework**

We set homework for all children in school. We ensure that all tasks set are appropriate to the ability of the child, and we endeavour to adapt any task set so that all children can contribute in a positive way.

Homework/ spellings given may be different for some pupils in class (e.g. pupils with additional needs). Staff may also carry out a pre-homework task session to go over the homework with certain pupils prior to sending it home (as a support mechanism for the child). Extra resources may also be sent home to support pupils further (e.g. times tables squares; number lines; examples of how to complete maths calculations, etc...).

**The Role of Parents and Carers:**Parents and carers have a vital role to play in their child's education, and homework is an important part of this process. We ask parents and carers to encourage their child to complete the homework tasks that are set. We invite them to help their children as and when they feel it to be necessary, and to provide them with the sort of environment and equipment that allows children to do their best. Parents and carers can support their child by providing a good working space at home, by enabling their child to visit the library regularly, and by discussing the work that their child is doing. Ideally parents should read with their children to help them develop a love of books and stories and help them to grow in confidence.

We ask parents and carers to sign their child's Reading Record every week to show that they have heard their child read or have seen their child read and ensure children are recording their reading in their records. Class teachers will ensure that the children get their weekly reading stamp if they have had their Reading Diary/ Planner signed three times. House Points and stickers may also be rewarded for home reading and records which are up to date.

Reading Records are issued at the beginning of each school year. However, if these are misplaced then a charge will be made for a replacement. In addition to this, any lost Homework Books will also incur a charge.

Homework is seen in part as a preparation for the more independent learning undertaken at secondary school

If parents and carers have any questions about homework, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher. Following that, they may wish to speak with a member of the Senior Leadership Team:

KS1 Assistant Headteacher –Mrs Brooks  
KS2 Assistant Headteacher –Mr Rigby  
Deputy Headteacher – Mrs Gould  
Headteacher – Mrs Westhead

**NB:**

**Details of the KS2 homework (e.g. page number and section of Homework Book) will usually be recorded in the KS2 Reading Diary/ Planner.**

**Details of the KS1 homework (e.g. page number and section of Homework Book) will usually be recorded on the weekly spellings homework sheet.**

### **Monitoring and Review**

Homework is regularly monitored by SLT as part of our subject monitoring cycle linked to our school priorities.

This policy will be reviewed in September 2019

Policy produced by: Mrs J.Westhead (Headteacher) September 2018.