

# Pensby Primary School



## Homework policy

Mrs K Brown – September 2008

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### **What are the aims of this policy?**

- To ensure a consistent approach to homework throughout the school.
- To ensure that teachers, parents and children have a clear understanding regarding expectations for homework.
- To ensure that teachers, parents and children are fully aware of the role they play with regard to homework.

### **What is the purpose of homework?**

- To consolidate, reinforce and extend skills and understanding particularly in Literacy and maths.
- To provide opportunities for parents and children to work together.
- To allow parents to gain an understanding of what children are learning in school.
- To allow children to progress towards becoming more independent learners.

### **What is the role of the school?**

- To provide parents with a clear policy regarding homework.
- To ensure this policy is fully and consistently followed.
- To provide support for parents with information about homework.
- To provide support for children with the running of a homework club.

### **What is the role of the teacher?**

- To plan and set a programme of homework that is appropriate to the needs of the child.
- To ensure all children understand the homework they have been given.
- To mark and give feedback about homework.
- To be available to talk to parents and children about homework.
- To inform parents if there is a problem regarding homework.

### **What is the role of the parent?**

- To support the child in completing homework.
- To ensure the child completes homework to a high standard and hands it in on time.
- To provide the appropriate conditions for the child to complete the homework.
- To provide the appropriate resources for the child to complete the homework.

### **What is the role of the child?**

- To ensure they have everything they need to complete homework each week.
- To make sure they understand the tasks that have been set.
- To put in the same level of effort as would be expected of class work.
- To hand the homework in on time.
- To take on board any feedback about homework.

## **Homework in Reception class and Key stage 1**

Learning together is the emphasis for children in Reception and Key stage 1. The activities are Literacy based with a strong emphasis on reading together. It is an ideal time to lay the foundations for continuing work at home.

### ***Reading***

Parents are asked to hear their child read at home at least 3 times a week and to use Reading Eggs for this. Families will be given a login for their child so that they can access Reading Eggs at home.

Reading Eggs also has associated activities that parents are asked to complete. Class teachers can monitor progress through Reading Eggs.

It is important that child feel books and understand how to turn pages and care for books. Parents and children sharing a book can be a very special and important moment and as such children will also bring home a Reading for pleasure book to share at home. This will be regularly changed in school (usually once a week).

### ***Phonics and Spelling***

When your child is ready, they will bring home high frequency words to learn as part of our spelling homework and phonics homework. Parents should practice these with their child at least 3 times a week. We ask parents to practice these words with their child by:

- Reading the word
- Writing the word
- Drawing pictures and symbols to represent the word
- Creating games around the word

In school we use Spelling Ninja and tasks from this will also be given to pupils as part of their homework sessions.

### ***Other tasks***

Other tasks may be given to the children to help support their school lessons. Teachers will communicate any other tasks to families through Seesaw. Work can be uploaded to Seesaw.

### ***Marking and Feedback***

Reading Eggs assesses pupils progress and feedback to parents and teachers. For spellings and phonics homework, class based assessments and tests will be used to feedback to all parties. Other tasks that have been communicated through Seesaw will have verbal feedback from a member of the classroom staff. Feedback from Seesaw will usually be made once a week.

## **Homework in Key Stage 2.**

### ***Reading***

Parents are asked to hear their child read at home at least 3 times a week and to use Reading Eggs for this. Families will be given a login for their child so that they can access Reading Eggs at home. As the children become independent in key stage 2, they will be able to access Reading Eggs and complete

the tasks with less home support. Reading Eggs also has associated activities that parents and/or the pupils are asked to complete. Class teachers can monitor progress through Reading Eggs.

It is important that child feel books and understand how to turn pages and care for books. Parents and children sharing a book can be a very special and important moment and as such children will also bring home a Reading for pleasure book to share at home. This will be regularly changed in school, usually once a week, although as the pupils age and choose more complex books this time will lengthen.

### ***Phonics and Spelling***

Parents should practice these with their child at least 3 times a week. We ask parents to practice these words in line with guidance for pupils in key stage 1, but to take into account their child's age and adapt as necessary. Class teachers will give advice to support this at home.

In school we use Spelling Ninja and tasks from this will also be given to pupils as part of their homework sessions.

### ***Other tasks***

Other tasks may be given to the children to help support their school lessons. Teachers will communicate any other tasks to families through Seesaw. Work can be uploaded to Seesaw.

### ***Marking and Feedback***

Reading Eggs assesses pupils progress and feedback to parents and teachers. For spellings and phonics homework, class based assessments and tests will be used to feedback to all parties. Other tasks that have been communicated through Seesaw will have verbal feedback from a member of the classroom staff. Feedback from Seesaw will usually be made once a week.

### **Why will children sometimes be given extra homework?**

Children who take part in specialised lessons and Booster classes may sometimes be set extra homework to reinforce the work being done. Additionally children who work in a one to one situation with teaching assistants will sometimes be given extra homework. In both cases, children should complete this work alongside their normal homework unless the child or the parents have been told otherwise. If the child is finding they have too much work then parents should speak to the child's teacher. To prepare pupils in years 5 and 6 for transition to key stage 3, homework will increase over the year and homework logs will be given. The class teacher will communicate this through Seesaw.

### **What about children who don't complete homework?**

The expectation is that children will complete homework. Teachers will monitor the completion of homework on a regular basis. If there are any problems with children not completing homework on a regular basis then parents will be contacted to discuss this. The school encourages parents to talk to class teachers if they have any difficulties supporting their child with homework or completing homework, so that an alternative arrangement can be made. There will be occasions when a child will miss playtime/other activities if they have not completed homework. If this does occur it is handled sensitively by the teacher and the child is afforded all the usual playtime comforts of eating their snack, using the toilet etc.

### **How will the homework be marked?**

Teachers will mark children's homework in a variety of ways but always according to the schools marking policy. Generally the work will be marked by the teacher with a short encouraging comment, through Seesaw or verbally within the classroom setting.

### **Homework standards**

The children are often reminded that homework should be completed to a high standard. As in school, children should use pencil or blue ink/gel pens to complete other homework tasks. Children like to colour in homework pictures and illustrations and we ask that only coloured pencils be used to do this.