

Little Stoke Primary School



Homework Policy

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Last Review	November 2020	
Next Review	November 2022	

Little Stoke Primary School

Homework Policy

The staff and governors at Little Stoke Primary School understand and appreciate the value of strong links between home and school. Our aim is to nurture children who will become lifelong learners; excited about possibilities, challenges to be met and learning yet to be discovered. As a school we are committed to nurturing a productive partnership between parents, guardians and staff so that everyone understands the important role they have in developing the learning of all children in our school.

It is important that children develop a love of learning in all aspects of their life and are able to make links between schoolwork and work they do at home. Although homework expectations will vary depending on the age of the child, successful homework is dependent on the support and encouragement of parents.

AIMS

Through this policy we aim to:

- Develop children's love of learning and their understanding of learning as a lifelong experience
- Ensure consistency across the school
- Develop pupils' confidence, organisation and perseverance required to study independently and away from school
- Reinforce and extend skills learned in school, particularly in English and Maths
- Strengthen our partnership with parents, inviting them to be actively involved in children's learning
- Prepare older children for the differing challenges and expectations of secondary education

HOME LEARNING

At Little Stoke we believe that homework is not just about formal written work but that learning at home comes from a broad range of activities which parents encourage children to be involved in.

For example:

- Family outings and visits
- After school clubs
- Visiting the library
- Sports activities
- E-learning via the computer
- Talking to parents about what they have learnt at school
- Practising basic maths and English skills using the world around them

HOMEWORK

Our homework at Little Stoke falls under two sections:

1. Regular short, manageable tasks and activities which will focus on basic skills (reading, writing and maths)
2. Project-based homework linked to the current theme, three times a year

The basic structure of homework is as follows:

Year Group	Core Expectation each week	Approximate time
Year R	Daily Reading and phonics Tricky words for reading	10-15 minutes a day
Year 1 and 2	Daily Reading and phonics (where needed) Times Tables practice 3 – 5 times a week Occasional piece of Maths or English Project homework linked to theme 3 times a year	15-20 minutes a day 4-5 days a week
Year 3 and 4	Daily Reading and phonics (where needed) Spelling research or linked activities Times Tables Practice 3 – 5 times a week A piece of Maths, English or Reading comprehension every week Project homework linked to theme 3 times a year	20-30 minutes a day 4-5 days a week
Year 5 and 6	Daily Reading Spelling research or linked activities Times Tables Practice 3 – 5 times a week A piece of Maths and English/Reading comprehension weekly Project homework linked to theme 3 times a year	30 minutes a day 5 days a week

Organisation

To enable children, staff and parents to work together, homework times and expectations will be consistent. Parents will be informed when weekly homework will be set, when it should be returned and which times tables children are currently working on. Schedules for homework will vary between families; each family will need to establish a routine which works for them and school will support parents in organising this where needed. For on-going homework such as reading, spelling and phonics, we would encourage children and parents to practice these as regularly as possible rather than stick to a set day. A short reading or tables practice each day is much better than one long session a week. The suggested daily times are based on children working on homework four or five days a week.

Our Role at Little Stoke is to:

- Provide homework as agreed
- Ensure children understand task and time frame
- Collect, acknowledge and praise the return of homework
- Mark the homework as appropriate
- Inform parents if homework is regularly not returned
- Feedback to children

The Children's role is to:

- Ensure homework is taken home in a homework folder
- Return the homework by the agreed day
- Organise themselves as to when and where to do homework
- Ask staff and/or parents if they have any difficulties and need help
- Attempt homework to the best of their ability, even when challenging
- Record their home reading in the current format

Parents' and Carers' role is to:

- Encourage children to do their homework, putting aside a quiet time for this to happen
- Help as appropriate, especially with tables, calculation, phonics and reading where possible
- Inform the class teacher when there are problems with homework

- Ensure children return homework on the given day and praise children for effort and for completion
- Provide other learning opportunities at home eg games, trips, books, library visits

When staff, parents and pupils all place value on homework, it has the potential to raise standards, extend learning and improve pupils' study skills and attitudes to learning. It can reinforce work covered in class and can be used to practise or consolidate basic skills and knowledge. For older children, it encourages them to develop a sense of perseverance and initiative, and make them more responsible for their own learning. At Little Stoke Primary School we see work completed at home as a valuable and essential part of the school curriculum.