

Cottesmore St Mary Catholic Primary School Homework Policy



**'Mane nobiscum Domine'
(Abide with us O Lord)**

Date of policy review: October 2018

Next review: October 2021

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Policy reviewed & passed by: Pupils, Parents and Community Committee

Key people responsible for Homework: Senior Leadership Team

Other policies linked to this policy: Teaching and Learning Policy

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Flow Chart Outlining Homework Expectations

At the beginning of the school year, a homework book is given to each child – this will be used for sending home fortnightly National Curriculum spellings and RWI spelling rules . Children will also be given a login to access online maths and reading work, which will be stuck in book. This book will also act as a communication books between home and school.



At the beginning of each half term parents will be directed to the school website to look at the Year Group pages outlining objectives the children will be learning.



Weekly homework is set by every Thursday. This will consist of reading: real books for pleasure and Bug Club books for targeted reading and comprehension practice, weekly MyMaths activities/times tables practice and fortnightly spelling lists to learn and practise.



If families would like to support their child further, in addition to range of work set, they will be directed to the school website for Head teacher's Challenges for further written activities and signposting to useful resources.



If families would like to communicate any comments regarding homework, this can be done via the Homework Book.



Those who regularly do not complete homework will be approached, as it is important that some learning does take place at home. In these instances, the teachers do not reprimand the child but will arrange to meet and talk with the parents directly.

COTTESMORE ST MARY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

HOMEWORK POLICY

Rationale

- Homework can be a valuable way of motivating children to engage in the learning process, to reinforce skills taught at school and as a means of communication with parents about teaching and learning in school and their own child's progress.
- We know that parents want to be partners in their children's learning however they need a clear homework structure to enable this.

Aims

- It is strongly felt that homework should not provide a burden within family life. Children should be involved in a wide range of out-of-school activities / family activities which homework should not jeopardise – especially at primary school age
- Homework should therefore be in manageable amounts and should be easily understood. We prefer that our homework can be fitted into normal family routines, rather than seen as an extra task to be fitted into busy lives
- The school therefore aims to make homework enjoyable and not a 'chore'
- We also believe that the homework books are a key method of providing information to parents about teaching and learning in school as well as a readily available means for parents to regularly communicate with the school. The school particularly values comments parents / carers make about their children's achievements outside of school.

Guidelines

- Reception to Y6 will set work weekly on Thursday to be monitored the following Thursday.
- Each child will have a homework book.
- Homework will consist of: Reading: real books (Y4-6) and books from a progressive scheme (YR – Y3) in addition to the Bug Club website. Maths: weekly teacher set activity on Maths website, MyMaths.
- In addition, times tables and spelling activities will be sent home as ongoing targets for the children to work on.
- As classes plan together, homework will be the same due to mirrored year group objectives and activities. Homework will be linked to the learning that has been happening in class thus giving a clear context for children whilst consolidating the basic skills of learning.
- These tasks will be explained, in class, to children before homework is given out.
- Some homework set will be internet based as we move further into the digital age e.g. My Maths, Bug club etc. Children and parents will be notified by the teachers on how to access this via information stuck into the homework book.
- Children who do not have access to a computer can liaise directly with the Deputy Headteacher to discuss alternative ways of completing online homework.
- Homework should be set at a level that doesn't require a great amount of parental support and can be completed independently.
- Children with Individual Provision Maps (IPMs) do not need to complete all homework as it is more beneficial if they spend homework time working on their individual targets.
- Parents can use the homework book to record comments / liaise with the teacher. Flow chart liaison
- Children in Year 6 will be given additional homework for revision purposes and in preparation for secondary school.
- Tasks are not compulsory apart from in Years 5 and 6.
- Those who regularly do not complete homework will be approached however, as it is important that some learning does take place at home. In these instances, the child will not be reprimanded but the teacher will talk to the parents directly.
- Teachers must not reward all children who bring back homework on a weekly basis e.g. by using house points etc but only reward individuals on specific homework merit such as effort. It is expected however, that in Year 5 and 6 children take responsibility for their own learning and complete homework weekly in preparation for SATS and secondary school. If children in these years regularly do not complete homework, they can follow the behaviour policy, finally resulting in homework being completed with school day.

- Homework must not be essential to forthcoming classroom lessons.
- Some children receive extra interventions in school in order to accelerate their progress. Some interventions require children to complete additional tasks at home, and where possible these should always be done in order to further support this work in school. These will be sent home as necessary during the intervention.

Specific Subject Homework Guidelines

ENGLISH

Reading – This will be encouraged nightly and will be provided via real books (Y4-6) and books from a progressive scheme (YR – Y3) in addition to the Bug Club website.

All children will be taught reading skills through daily reading sessions and in Year R to Year 2 through additional daily phonic activities. Children are encouraged to take books home every night and change them as soon as they have finished. From Rec - Y3, these books are colour coded into bands and children will be directed to their band based on ability. They are able to take books from other bands should they wish, but it is advisable that they also take one from their level. They are encouraged to 'have a go' at reading and parents are encouraged to enjoy reading with their children by getting involved in the stories and helping to develop their child's response to written texts. This could involve parents reading to their child and asking them to predict what happened next or just talking through the pictures and discussing characters feelings. From Y4 upwards children are encouraged to take book of choice from class library, based on interest and personal taste. If any parents would like support in choosing suitable books, class teachers are to offer support and guidance. Every child should read every night.

Spelling - As with reading, spelling will be *taught* and assessed regularly in school.

Year R – Year 2 will follow the Read Write Inc programme, and will have additional National Curriculum spelling lists sent home on a regular basis to learn.

Year 3 – Year 6 - will follow the New Curriculum (2014) for spelling. This will be taught through the Read Write Inc spelling programme. Current rules being taught will be shared with parents on a fortnightly basis via the homework book for homework practice.

In addition to this, each year group has a range of specific spellings that they must learn to spell by the end of each year. These will be posted on the relevant year group page on the school website and will be given to parents at the first parents' evening in October. These will be explicitly taught, and will be sent home in lists of 10 to be learnt on a fortnightly basis. These will then be tested and scores recorded. Children needing support will be offered spelling intervention work in school.

MATHS

Maths homework will include one activity set weekly linked to work in class. This will be website based, on My Maths. Times tables to learn by the end of the academic year will be given to parents at the first parents' evening in October. However year group pages have further information on how to support this work, as well as the order in which to teach tables tested twice weekly.

Meetings for parents regarding how we expect children to complete calculations are provided annually to ensure parents are made aware of the various ways calculations are taught in school now, which may differ from methods that were previously taught.

HOLIDAYS

Homework over the half term and end of term holidays will consist of 'light touch' revision work of times tables or phonics/spellings rules. Regular reading sessions should still take place over the holiday.

HOMEWORK TIMETABLE

Year group	Reading Class library and or colour coded books	Bug club Reading and comprehension	English	Maths
Reception	10 mins daily	Minimum once weekly	-Regular Read Write Inc spellings	- 1 maths activity a week
Year 1	10 mins daily	Minimum once weekly	- Regular Read Write Inc spellings - First 100 HF words	- 1 maths activity a week
Year 2	15 mins daily	Minimum once weekly	-Regular Read Write Inc spellings - Common Exception Words	- 1 maths activity a week - Ongoing times table practice
Year 3	20 mins daily	Minimum once weekly	- Ongoing spellings practice of RWI rules - Years 3 and 4 NC wordlist	- 1 maths activity a week - Ongoing times table practice
Year 4	25 mins daily	Minimum once weekly	- Ongoing spellings practice of RWI rules - Years 3 and 4 NC wordlist	- 1 my maths activity a week - Ongoing times table practice
Year 5	30 mins daily	Minimum once weekly	- Ongoing spellings practice of RWI rules - Years 5 and 6 NC wordlist	- 1 maths activity a week - Ongoing times table practice
Year 6	30 mins daily	Minimum once weekly	- Ongoing spellings practice of RWI rules - Years 5 and 6 NC wordlist - SPAG revision booklet tasks weekly	- 1 maths activity a week - Ongoing times table practice - Maths revision booklet tasks weekly