

Sherwell Valley Primary School



Home Learning Guidance

Home learning is anything children do outside of the normal school day that contributes to their learning in response to guidance from the school. Home learning encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents/carers to support the children's learning. For example, parents or carers who spend time reading stories to their children before bedtime are helping with home learning.

Through this policy we aim to:

- ensure consistency of approach throughout the school
- ensure progression towards independence and individual responsibility
- ensure the needs of the individual child are taken into account
- ensure parents/guardians have a clear understanding about expectations from themselves and their child
- improve the quality of learning experience offered to children
- extend and support the learning experience via reinforcement and revision
- provide opportunities for parents, children and school to work in partnership
- provide opportunities for parents and children to work together to enjoy learning experiences
- encourage children to develop long term strategies for future needs

Rationale

Home learning is an important part of a child's education and can add much to their development. We see home learning as an important example of collaboration between teachers and parents/carers. One of the aims of our teaching is for children to develop as independent learners and we believe that doing home learning is one of the main ways in which children can acquire the skill of independent learning. Home learning 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 home learning 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 their lives. Children develop their interests and skills to the full when parents/carers encourage them to make maximum use of the opportunities available outside school.

Definition

Although not a statutory requirement, "home learning" refers to any work or activities with which children are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with a parent/carer.

Home-School Partnership

Our home/school partnership encourages parent support as part of a wider partnership between parents and schools. It is hoped that parents/carers will support children with any request for home learning to be completed outside of lesson time. We believe parental support is essential and plays a vital role in children's education and home learning is an important part of this process.

We ask parents and carers to encourage their child to complete the home learning 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 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 every day to help them develop a love of books and stories and help them to grow in confidence. If parents and carers have any questions about home learning, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher.

Nursery and Reception Class (EYFS)

We encourage all parents/ carers to read a story with their child every night. We also ask parents/ carers to support any reading that is sent home from school. The reading diary should be completed each time the parent/ carer listens to their child read (Reception only).

Additionally, counting games, nursery rhymes, songs etc would be beneficial to the children's learning and would support the learning taking place in school. Learning links will be shared via Tapestry.

In addition to this Reception is as follows:

- Completing any phonics learning sent home including daily sounds sheets which can be used for reading and spelling the words.
- Spend 5 minutes on DoodleMaths / playing a maths game or activity 3 times a week.

Key Stage One

Our expectation for home learning in KS1 is as follows:

- Daily reading (and discussion about the book) to or with an adult at home, with the reading diary / RWI reading log signed.
- Completing any phonics learning sent home including daily sounds sheets which can be used for reading and spelling the words.
- Spend time on DoodleMaths (completing allocated stars) / playing a maths game or activity / practising times tables (If not Doodles – please record in the reading diary the activities completed).
- Read, recognise and practise the spelling of the common exception words sent home in the reading diaries (these can also be practised on DoodleSpell).

Key Stage Two (Lower – Y3 and 4)

Our expectation for home learning in KS2L is as follows:

- Daily reading (and discussion about the book) **to or with an adult** at home.
- Reading diary completed by the child.
- Spend time on DoodleMaths and DoodleEnglish (completing allocated stars)
- Optional - complete at least two sessions per week on Times Tables Rock Stars.
- Learn the spellings list sent home in the reading diaries (these can also be practised on Doodle Spell).

Key Stage Two (Upper Y5 and 6)

In upper KS2 we think about building the children's independence ready for secondary school. Our expectation for home learning in KS2U is as follows:

- Daily reading (and discussion about the book) **to or with an adult** at home.
- Reading diary completed by the child
- Optional - Write a book review to be shared in the class reading corner.
- Spend time on DoodleMaths and DoodleEnglish (completing allocated stars)
- Optional - complete at least two sessions per week on Times Tables Rock Stars
- Learn the spellings list sent home in the reading diaries (these can also be practised on DoodleSpell).

All Classes

Reading diaries will be looked at once a week and stamped as an acknowledgement. Children will receive Dojo points for completing homework and other rewards in line with the school Rewards Systems.

Home learning should not replace other activities which children pursue after school i.e. sport, music, clubs of all kinds.

Doodles

Doodles is an online app and is used by the school as a home learning tool. Research shows that 'Doodling' little and often can help boost your child's confidence and ability in maths and English. We encourage all of our children to reach the 'Green Zone' each week by completing their Doodles each week. We recommend this is completed Monday to Thursday. This is monitored by the class teacher, as are the reading diaries.

Use of ICT

A copy of the school's Online Safety policy is available from the school office and may also be found on the school website. The child's safety is paramount in all matters regarding use of the internet and we advise parents and carers to always supervise their child's access to the internet. The use of ICT and the Internet has made a significant contribution to the amount of reference material available at home and the ease and speed with which it can be accessed.

Inclusion and Home Learning

We set home learning for all children as a normal part of school life. 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.

Tasks should:

- have a very clear focus and time-guideline
- give plenty of opportunities for pupils to succeed
- help develop social skills as well as other skills where necessary
- be varied – and not purely written or screen-based assignments
- be manageable for teachers and families

Further Information

For each year group, a booklet accompanies the home learning guidance giving further information on the end of year expectations and ways to support your children at home. These can be found on the school website and are available from class teachers.

Monitoring and Reviewing this policy

Our home learning guidance is reviewed annually by the Head Teacher and SLT in consultation with teaching staff.

September 2023