Durweston CE VA Primary School

Homework Policy

September 2019

Feed the mind, nurture the spirit, free the imagination!

Governors are mindful of their duties under the Equality Act 2010 and have screened this document to ensure compliance with the law

At Durweston, we acknowledge that homework can be a contentious issue. Whilst some parents and children like and expect homework, others find it a chore. Some children come from backgrounds that are conducive to homework; others do not. Furthermore, we need to consider the workload on staff as, unlike secondary colleagues, primary staff do not have allocated time to set or mark homework.

However, we recognize that homework can be used to:

Encourage children to read, write or do mathematics outside of school;
Encourage activities that promote a healthy lifestyle
Encourage talk between children and members of their family
Allow parents to share learning with their child
Enable parents to see what their child can/can't do
Enable parents to support their child's learning

We therefore consider carefully when, why, how and what kinds of activities we send home (if any at all) and think about how ALL children can be supported to complete worthwhile activities successfully. We also bear in mind that children, parents and teachers often have busy lives and limited time outside school.

Completion of all and any homework will be positively reinforced. However as children get older, they may be asked to stay in at playtimes or lunchtimes to complete homework that has not been completed at home.

Expectations
At Durweston, we believe that the most important homework that you can do is to **talk to your child**. Talk about your daily life, the things you do, the things you'd like to do, the things you wish you didn't have to do. Talk about what you see, feel, think, and hear. Listen to their comments, answer their questions and extend their ideas.

We believe that the second most important home work is **reading.** Not just hearing your child read their school book, though this is important. Please read with and to your child as often as you can: share books together, reading the words and discussing the pictures; join your local library; buy or borrow audio books to listen to on car journeys; take books on holiday, buy books for birthdays and Christmas, swap books with other parents. Share fiction and non-fiction, newspapers, comics, menus, timetables, shopping lists. Reading underpins every aspect of your child's education. Surrounding your child with the language of books is one of the best ways of helping them do well.

Children are made readers on the laps of their parents. (Emilie Buchwald)

A child who reads will be an adult who thinks. (Unknown)

Reading

We expect every child to read most days and to record this reading, though what this looks like obviously looks different in different classes.

Class	Books	Comments
Starfish and Dolphins (YR,1 and 2)	There are books organised by colour bands that will be sent home in your child's book bag. However please supplement these by sharing good quality children's fiction available freely from the Blandford library.	Adult comment in yellow Reading Record
Dolphins and Seahorses (Years 2 and 3)	As your child comes to the end of year 2, they should be moving beyond the banded books. In Seahorses, children are allowed to choose freely from the books on the trolley.	As your child becomes a more independent reader, we ask them to start making their own comments about the books they are reading. By year 3, we expect them to be writing their reading record book at least once a week.
Sharks and Porpoises (years 4, 5, 6)	A selection of books is provided in the classroom, though this can be supplemented by books from home agreed by the teacher.	Weekly completion of reading tasks in their reading journal.

Maths

Please take every opportunity you can to count with you child. Play snakes and ladders, dominoes and, with the older children, games like backgammon. Teach them how to tell the time and teach them about money – can they work out how much things cost and how much change they need? Talk about distance when you go to visit friends and relatives. Do some cooking and talk about full, half full, empty as well as how to weigh ingredients. All of these things will really help.

Class	Focus	
Year 1 Dolphins	Addition squares	Maths Shed and weekly addition squares will be introduced when the children are ready.
Year 2 Orcas	Addition squares and then times tables	Introduced when appropriate
Year 3 Seahorses	Times tables	Maths Shed
Sharks	Times tables	Weekly test in class; Maths Shed
Porpoises	Arithmetic	Maths Shed

Spelling

Children in Years 1 – 6 are expected to practise their spellings at home in preparation for a weekly test. Arrangements differ slightly in each class but are set out in the termly letter to parents which can be viewed on the school website.

Find opportunities for your child to write: birthday and Christmas cards; thank you letters, shopping lists, notes for the postman – anything you can think of!

Creative Homework

In the Autumn and Spring terms, your child's class teacher will send home a grid of homework tasks that are linked to that term's topic. The purpose of these tasks is to give you an insight into what your child is learning about at school and to give ideas of activities that you might like to complete together. We ask that each term, every child produces at least one high quality piece of work from the list, though we are delighted when children choose to do more. This work, along with topic work done in school, is brought into school and shared with other parents at our termly Open Days. Please bear in mind that space is limited!

Holidays
We do not provide homework for children who take holidays during term-time. However, we do expect children to complete a daily diary whilst they are away and will provide an exercise book for this purpose. We also expect the child to carry on reading.

Additional resources
If you and your child are keen to do more work outside of school, the books from CGP (www.cgpbooks.co.uk) are reasonably priced and well matched to the National Curriculum.

If you would like more information about the homework that your child is expected to do or if your child is finding it difficult to fulfil the homework expectations, please make an appointment to talk to their class teacher.

NB 2019

'Stand true in what you believe. Be courageous, be strong.
And do everything with love.' 1 Corinthians 16:13-14