



HOMWORK POLICY 2024 - 2025

Date: May 2024

Due for Review: May 2025

Aims:

- To ensure a clear and shared understanding of the purpose of homework
- To ensure a clear and shared understanding of the expectations in regard to homework

The purpose of homework in the Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 is to:

- provide opportunities to reinforce and consolidate school-based learning
- to develop the 'learning partnership' with parents, involving them in their child's learning
- to begin to establish the principles, disciplines and responsibilities of independent learning

The purpose of homework in Key Stage 2:

- to consolidate and reinforce school-based learning, providing opportunities for children to practise skills taught
- to embed the responsibilities and practice of devoting regular periods of time to studying away from the classroom independently or with the support of a parent/carer.
- establish a regular weekly schedule of homework to assist in the transfer to Year 7.

Rationale :

Whilst national research may suggest that homework adds little to a child's academic progress, we believe that a child's progress can benefit greatly from the mutual support of parents and teachers in encouraging him/her to learn both at home and in school. At Ottershaw Schools we value homework as an important way of building a successful dialogue between teachers and parents.

One of the aims of our school is for children to develop as independent learners and we believe that homework is one of the ways in which children can develop their skills as independent learners.

We also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in the development of a 'rounded' person and we genuinely feel, that whilst homework is important, it should not prevent children from taking part in the wide range of out-of-school clubs and organisations that play an important part in the lives of many children. However, we are well aware that children spend more time at home than at school, and we believe they develop their skills, interests and talents to the full only when parents encourage them to make maximum use of the experiences and opportunities that are available outside of school.

Homework is anything that children do outside the normal school day that contributes to their learning in response to guidance from the school. Homework encompasses a whole variety of activities planned by teachers to support children's learning.

Our homework schedule is developed with all teaching staff and in consultation with parents. Whilst some tasks are specifically set as a response to a taught lesson (such as spellings or maths) others are on-going (eg TT Rock Stars and Reading) to give families greater flexibility on when to complete homework, depending on their own busy schedules.

In addition to our homework schedule for each year group, from Year 1, we will copy and send home each child's Big Write. The Big Write is a whole school approach to encouraging and assessing children's independent writing. Whenever children complete a Big Write (usually every week at the Infant School and every 2/3 weeks at the Junior School) teachers will copy it prior to marking and send the copy home. We feel this gives all parents the opportunity

to see the progress their children are making in school, and is another way of sharing learning between home and school. If they wish, parents may work with their child to further edit and improve this writing.

Our expectations of homework from The Foundation Stage through to Year 6 are as follows:-

Year Group	Homework	Day of the week homework is set	Day of the week homework is due in
Nursery	We don't set formal homework, but do have a weekly Wednesday Library Time where the children can choose a new book to take home and share with you. Sharing stories and talking about them is the best way to introduce a love of reading and the children love it, we just ask that the book is returned every Wednesday so it can be swapped for a new one each week.	Wednesday	Wednesday
Reception	Daily Reading (approximately 5 – 10 minutes) 'Jolly Phonics' sound books (already sent home) to practise phonic sounds and handwriting. Practising High Frequency Words	Short bursts 5 times a week at home	
Year 1	Daily Reading x 5 (approximately 10 – 15 minutes each time) Differentiated spelling lists (maximum of 5 words) Talk Homework (in preparation for the Big Write on Friday – this can be found on the Class Pages every week. Either an English or Maths Tasks (alternated every week)	Daily Friday Friday Friday	Daily Friday Friday Wednesday
Year 2	Daily Reading x 5 (approximately 15 – 20 minutes each time) Differentiated spelling lists (maximum of 10 words) Talk Homework (in preparation for the Big Write on Friday – this can be found on the Class Pages every week. An English and Maths Task	Daily Friday Friday Friday	Daily Friday Friday Wednesday
Year 3	Daily Reading x 5 (approximately 20 - 25 minutes each time) Differentiated spelling lists (maximum of 10 words) A Mental Arithmetic Task TT Rockstars (3 'garage' sessions 5 times per week. Each garage session last for 1 minute)	Daily All set on Monday	Daily All due in on Friday
Year 4	Daily Reading x 5 (approximately 20 - 25 minutes each time) Differentiated spelling lists (maximum of 12 words) A Maths Task TT Rockstars (3 'garage' sessions 5 times per week. Each garage session last for 1 minute)	Daily All set on Monday	Daily All due in on Friday
Year 5	Daily Reading x 5 (approximately 20 - 25 minutes each time) Differentiated spelling lists (maximum of 15 words) A Maths Task TT Rockstars (3 'garage' sessions 5 times per week. Each garage session last for 1 minute)	Daily All set on Monday	Daily All due in on Friday
Year 6	Daily Reading x 5 (approximately 20 - 25 minutes each time) Differentiated spelling lists (maximum of 20 words) A Maths Task An English Task TT Rockstars (3 'garage' sessions 5 times per week. Each garage session last for 1 minute)	Daily All set on Monday	Daily All due in on Friday

NB In addition at the Junior School, teachers will send home class work if they feel your child has not completed enough or tried hard enough during lesson time. This additional homework will be recorded in the Home/School Communication Book and must be completed that evening.

Whilst teachers aim to provide homework as described above, there will be days when special events, such as trips, plays etc. make the setting of homework impossible

The role of parents:

We expect children to approach homework tasks with the same level of commitment in terms of outcomes and presentation as their class work. The expectation is that children's handwriting will be in cursive script 'The Ottershaw Way' in accordance with Handwriting Policy. This will develop each child's ability to study independently.

At Ottershaw Schools we believe parents play a vital role in their child's education, and homework is an integral part of this. We would expect parents to encourage their child to complete the homework tasks set.

Parents and carers can help by:

- providing a quiet, relaxed working space at home
- providing appropriate resources to complete the task
- creating a good homework routine
- being supportive and encouraging
- discussing the task before it is started
- offering praise, encouragement and discussing the work when it is finished

We recognise that some children will use as much time as they are allowed to complete a task, we endeavour to overcome this by allocating a specific amount of time to task whilst providing timely reminders of how much time is left to complete the task. However, if a child is experiencing particular difficulties or anxieties regarding a particular homework task please stop the task and revisit.

If parents have any problems or questions about homework, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher who will offer support. Teachers encourage parents to let them know if a child is experiencing difficulties with any homework. This can be done through the homework book or by talking directly with the teacher by appointment or by telephone.

Feedback for pupils & marking homework:

It is important to provide encouraging and constructive feedback to children about their homework as soon as possible.

Children will receive feedback in a range of ways best suited to the task. These will include class discussion, tests (e.g. spellings/times tables) further application or usage in a linked task, and through individual comments from the teacher. Homework books will be marked weekly.