

Forty Hill C of E Primary School

Homework Policy



At Forty Hill C of E Primary School we believe that childhood is a time for adventure and discovery. We would like our children to have time for sustained imaginative play and outdoor exercise. That said, we acknowledge the Government's requirement that we set homework. Evidence shows that where parents are involved with their children's learning, the children gain confidence and make more secure progress.

We believe that homework:

- Encourages independent working
- Encourages research that can be used in class lessons
- Consolidates work completed in class
- Provides extension activities
- Helps children to develop the skills and attitudes they will need for successful lifelong learning
- Is an opportunity for parents/carers to become involved with their child's education and gain understanding of the curriculum they are following

Reading

- We are passionate about developing the children's love of reading. It is expected that all children will read at home every day
- It is important that children share their reading book with a family member
- Reading may include being read to, reading newspapers, magazines, comics, fiction and non-fiction books
- Reading should also include a discussion about what the child has read, including thoughts and feelings of the character and what might happen next in the book
- We ask that you complete the Reading Record every time that your child reads with you so that we can keep up to date with the progress that they have made at home as well as in class

Spellings, Handwriting and Times Tables

- We like to use school lesson time to learn new things, so it is very helpful if parents support us by encouraging their children to practise basic skills at home
- At Forty Hill, we believe that learning spelling patterns and rules is much more effective than a weekly spelling test. Although we may sometimes test the children, we want to ensure that they know how to spell the words within their writing, not just once but consistently
- At times, if we feel it will support the children in their learning, a spelling list will be sent home for children to learn – these will usually be high frequency words or words linked to the topic being studied in class
- We encourage children to write in a neat, joined, cursive and legible style from the beginning of Reception. Practising this at home, including the way in which your child grips the pencil or pen, can really help to sharpen this skill and allow us to concentrate more on content in the classroom
- Times tables are vital for children's progression in maths and a valuable skill for life. The expectations for learning times tables are as follows:
 - Y1 – Count in 2s, 5s and 10s
 - Y2 – Recite 2, 5 and 10 x tables
 - Y3 – All of the above and 3, 4 and 8 x tables
 - Y4 – All of the times tables up to 10 x 10
 - Y5 and Y6 – Consolidate knowledge of all times tables up to 10 x 10 and beyond
- The children will learn these times tables in school as well as through homework tasks. We know that their progress will be maximised if they rehearse their tables at home and so we encourage parents to do so as often as possible

Topic, Mathematics and Homework Grids

- Sometimes children will be given homework that helps to prepare for, or adds more breadth to, the topic that is being studied in class
- Children may be given a Homework Grid containing a variety of homework tasks that they should complete over a period of time. Areas for homework will include:
English and Communication (including Speaking and Listening)
Science and the Outside Environment (including Science, PE and Healthy Lifestyles)
Religious Education
Humanities and Citizenship (History, Geography, Moral & Social and Economic Awareness)
Creative Arts (Art, Design and Technology, Music, Drama and Dance)
- The Homework Grid allows you, as a family, to plan when you will have time to focus on more sustained pieces of work and when it will be more convenient to complete less demanding tasks.
- The Homework Grid will be made available on the class webpage, so that you are able to download a copy at any time
- Children may receive a separate piece of maths homework on top of basic skills, reading and the Homework Grid, in order to consolidate knowledge of the concepts being taught in class or prepare them for the upcoming topic

Marking of Homework and feedback

- The marking of homework will provide children and parents with feedback which reflects how well the objectives of the homework have been met – this will be completed in a variety of ways, including: ticks, verbal feedback, written feedback and next step marking
- Other errors which are not necessarily part of the objective and therefore not highlighted will be addressed in school through targeted teaching
- Teachers may write comments on the homework or on the homework grid in order to give positive praise and encouragement to the children (and parents who have supported their child in the completion of the homework)

Recommended Times

- At Forty Hill, we believe that, on top of reading, the amount of time children should spend on homework (from the Homework Grid, Mathematics and Basic Skills) should be a **maximum** of:
Reception: 20 minutes a week for learning tricky words, rhymes, number bonds,
Year 1: 45 minutes per week for learning spellings, practising basic skills and number work
Year 2: 1 hour per week
Years 3 and 4: 1.5 hours per week
Years 5 and 6: 2 hours per week
- The above times are a rough guide and you may feel it beneficial to do a little more with your children depending on the topic or concept being taught
- Year 6, in the lead up to their end of KS2 SATs tests, may receive a greater amount of homework and revision in order to consolidate previously learnt topics

We would like to thank the parent representatives for their contribution to this policy.

Accepted by the Governing Body: December 2016

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