

Forty Hill CE School

Homework Policy



Intent

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, conversations, reading for pleasure and outdoor exercise. That said, we acknowledge the Government's recommendation that we set homework. Evidence also shows that where parents are involved with their children's learning, the children gain confidence and make more secure progress.

Our homework policy reflects our Vision and commitment to learning and living in faith, hope, and service. We aim to foster curiosity, ignite a passion for learning, and encourage students to grow both academically and spiritually. Recognizing the importance of family time, our approach to homework seeks to balance academic growth with opportunities for students to connect with their families and enjoy shared learning experiences, reflect on their faith, and explore their world with wonder. By supporting responsible habits and a love for discovery, we prepare our children to serve others with hope and compassion, living out the values of our school in all they do.

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

Implementation

Reading

- We are passionate about developing the children's love of reading. It is expected that all children will read at home every day
- Children in Reception to Year 4 receive a home reader that matches their phonics learning/reading ability
- Children in Year 4 to Year 6 will have a book of their choice from our extensive class book areas or a suitable book from home
- It is important that all children share their reading book with a family member, even after they have achieved fluency
- 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 online 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
- A bedtime routine with stories builds a foundation of phonics, new vocabulary, and reading comprehension for children. Plus, reading to your child encourages excitement for reading.
- Children who are read to by their parents/carers everyday gain 1.4 million more words in their vocabulary than those who are not, giving them the best start in their literacy and lives.

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 and this is done through teaching of rules and patterns.
- Termly spelling lists are made available on our school website for children and parents to refer to, and we encourage follow up tasks on the Emile App which is the programme we use to teach.

- We encourage children to write in a neat, joined, cursive and legible style when ready from Year 1, however in Reception, children will be exposed to pre cursive writing and opportunities to develop their mark making and learn to form their letters correctly. 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 and we actively encourage our children to regularly access Times Table Rockstars to consolidate learning in a fun way. 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

- Each half term, children will be given homework that helps to prepare for, or adds more breadth to, the topic that is being studied in class
- From Year 2, children will 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
Global Neighbours
Humanities and Citizenship (History, Geography, Moral & Social and Economic Awareness)
Creative Arts (Art, Design and Technology, Music, Drama and Dance)
Modern Foreign Language (French) from Year 3
- 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 from Year 2 to Year 6 will also receive a weekly Maths task on Purple Mash to consolidate learning in class, which is completed online at home. Year 1 will receive a weekly Maths task on Purple Mash from Spring Term.

Acknowledgment of Homework

- All homework will be acknowledged by a member of the class team
- Special projects or achievements may be shared with a member of Senior Management

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 and My Maths) 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

Impact

We believe that our approach to homework develops a love of learning and is driven by child-initiated interests, making them independent learners for life. It also ensures a healthy balance of play, relaxation and extended learning and recognises the differences in each family's priorities.

Ratified by the Governing Body: November 2024

Review date: November 2026