



# Home Learning Policy

'Be the best that we can be'

Document Status			
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Date of Policy Creation	Adopted NYCC written model	Responsibility	Mr Ball - Chairperson
Date of Policy Adoption by Governing Body:			Signed <i>Stewart Ball</i>
Method of Communication:	Website and through staff training and communication		

## Introduction

At Northstead we see education as a positive partnership between home and school; home learning is a key part of this. It offers children the opportunity to become independent learners and to practice and apply skills learned in the classroom, thereby increasing knowledge and understanding. Home learning also offers an important opportunity for parents to work in partnership with school to support their child's learning.

Home learning is an opportunity to extend learning beyond the classroom and make connections with 'real life' contexts. It is also important that home learning is seen as an enjoyable complement to what happens at school. We would like to provide opportunities not only to reinforce key skills in Literacy and Mathematics, but also for children to learn more across a range of subjects and become 'experts' in those areas of interest to them.



### **Aims of Home Learning**

- To foster a love of learning both in and outside the classroom
- To create opportunities for children to share the curriculum and their learning with parents and carers at home
- To reinforce key skills in Literacy and Numeracy, linked to work covered at school.
- To provide greater opportunities for personalised learning, enabling children to extend themselves and develop skills and knowledge in their own area of interest.

### **Through these aims the school will endeavour to:**

- Provide opportunities to develop skills outside of school through a range of stimulating tasks
- Develop creativity in home learning, through longer 'project based' homework activities
- Ensure there is sensible progression in tasks from one year group to the next, as well as the time expected to be spent on home learning
- Allow children to share their learning with the class and their peers as they become an 'expert' in their chosen area.

We recognise that children and families can often be very busy out of school, so we try to avoid setting home learning to be returned the following day.

### **Activities**

**Reading:** This is a very important ongoing out of school activity. We like to encourage a 'little and often' approach to reading, using schemes, free choice books, websites, comics and so forth. We hope parents will encourage a love of reading through sharing a wide range of books and materials with children. We encourage parents to share the reading experience from early phonological skills to talking about texts, as children gradually become more independent readers in Key Stage 2.

**Spellings:** This will be based around a spelling rule or letter string. We do not test spellings in school but work around children understanding vocabulary with specific work being done in school to develop spelling without testing. The reasons for this being that testing of spellings only benefits a small minority of children in our school. This is not to say that adults at home cannot test their children on vocabulary lists if they'd like to.



### **Mathematics home learning:**

The ability to recall number bonds and derive multiplication facts and the corresponding division facts is an essential tool for use in many aspects of mathematics. It is an expectation of the school that all multiplication tables up to  $12 \times 12$  should be known by the end of Year 4 and up to  $15 \times 15$  by the end of year 6. Other maths learning may also be set as home learning to further extend or develop an initial idea of a concept being taught or about to be taught. An example of this could be the sending of a link to a video explaining the concept on class dojo.

### **Other home learning:**

Teachers may also set other home learning tasks as relevant to the theme being studied or to further extend understanding in a particular subject area. This may be in the form of a learning journal or other small home learning tasks.

### **Inclusion:**

It is important that children of all abilities are set appropriate home learning. Weekly home learning activities may be differentiated according to children's needs or tasks may be set for children to complete at their own level of understanding.

Staff will also aim to ensure that there is a wide variety of tasks that will be of interest to all children.

If home circumstances make completing a piece of home learning difficult, then parents or children are encouraged to inform the Class Teacher (in confidence) and time or resources will then be made available to children in school. If a child cannot access the Internet at home for example, then arrangements can be made for them to use the Internet at school for research or to develop skills.

### **Home Learning during Holidays and Extended illness**

As a general rule, we do not set children home learning during school holidays, but we will encourage children to read as much as they can. If children are taken out of school during term time to go on holiday, then we would encourage them to write a holiday diary and take photos if they wish, then share them when they return.

For children with extended absence through illness, work can be requested and provided, but at the discretion of the Class Teacher.



### **Non-completion of Home Learning**

As a school we strongly recommend that home learning tasks are completed and ask all our parents to support us in this. In Year 5 and 6 home learning is important as it provides invaluable preparation for the transition up to secondary school and to develop this 'culture', non-completion of home learning may result in children being asked to complete it in their own time at school eg at lunchtimes.

### **Review and Monitoring**

Monitoring of home learning provision will be undertaken by the Senior Leadership Team on an annual basis. This policy will also be reviewed and developed annually. Children and families views on home learning will be part of our communications plan.