



Home Learning Policy

September 2022

'Be the best that we can be'

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At Northstead Community Primary School 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 provide opportunities not only to reinforce key skills in English 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, linked to work covered at school, and enable pupils to retain what they have learned
- To provide greater opportunities for personalised learning, enabling children to extend themselves and develop skills and knowledge in their own area of interest
- To inform the teacher's planning

Through these aims the school will endeavour to:

- Support children to see homework as useful, relevant, interesting and manageable
- Provide opportunities to develop skills outside of school through a range of stimulating tasks
- Develop creativity in home learning, through '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 and celebrate their learning with the class

We recognise that children and families can often be very busy out of school so homework will always be given with sufficient timescale for completion.



Home Learning Activities

A regular pattern of homework is important. The following table shows our expectations for the different ages at Northstead School.

Year Group	English	Maths	Other
Early Years Foundation Stage (age 4 – 5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sharing and reading a wide range of stories, rhymes and non-fiction books, with pictures and words (from the school library/local library/home) Practising sounds- speed sounds book will be brought home with a weekly focus Counting, looking for numbers in the environment Talk homework - 'Problem of the Week' 		
Years 1 and 2 (age 5 – 7)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practise school phonic reading book daily Speed sounds book Share a story book with a grown up daily (from the school library/local library/home) Talk homework - 'Problem of the Week' Spelling rule shared weekly on Dojo 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maths task every fortnight Year 2 TT Rockstars 	Learning journal activities to be completed over the course of the term
Years 3 (age 7-8)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practise reading own school book daily Share a story book with a grown up daily (from the school library/local library/home) Talk homework - 'Problem of the Week' Spelling rule shared weekly on Dojo 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maths task every fortnight TT Rockstars 	Learning journal activities to be completed over the course of the term
Year 4 (age 8-9)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reading daily – school reading book Spellings - shared on Class Dojo weekly and set on Spelling Shed Talk homework - 'Problem of the Week' 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maths task every fortnight (Atom Prime) TT Rockstars 	Learning journal activities to be completed over the course of the term
Years 5 and 6 (age 9-11)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reading daily – school/home reading book Spellings - shared on Class Dojo weekly and set on Spelling Shed Talk homework - 'Problem of the Week' 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maths task every fortnight (Atom Prime) TT Rockstars 	Learning journal activities to be completed over the course of the term



Reading: Every child should leave Northstead School being able to read fluently and effortlessly. Families can support school, by continuing to promote a love of reading, though sharing a wide range of books and materials with children at home. We like to encourage a 'little and often' approach to reading (daily), using schemes, free choice books, websites, comics and so forth. We encourage parents/carers to share the reading experience from early phonological skills to talking about texts, chanting rhymes and looking at picture books, as children gradually become more independent readers in Key Stage 2.

Spellings: Weekly spelling rules and letter strings/patterns will be taught in class and can continue to be investigated at home. Examples of this will be sent home to parents on Class Dojo each week. There will be no weekly spelling tests in school. Evidence shows that testing of spellings only benefits a small minority of children. Adults at home may test their children on vocabulary lists if you feel that is appropriate for your child.

Children from year 1 to 6 also have access to the internet based app 'Spelling Shed', which they will use in school. Children in KS2 will be encouraged to use this at home, if they have internet access.

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 x 12 should be known by the end of Year 4.

Other maths learning will be set to further extend or develop an initial idea of a concept being taught or about to be taught through fortnightly tasks.

Other home learning:

Children will be given a wide variety of activities and challenges to be completed over the course of a term. These will be relevant to the theme being studied or to further extend understanding in a particular subject area. When an activity has been completed, children should bring their learning to school, to share and celebrate. Activities can be completed at any point throughout the term.



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.

'Homework Club' will be offered for children who may wish to complete their work in school. If a child cannot access the internet at home, they will be invited to attend the 'Homework Club'.

Children will be encouraged and expected to complete homework in line with this policy. High quality home learning will be celebrated and rewarded in school.

Home Learning during Holidays and Extended illness

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 under the direction of the Head Teacher.

Review and Monitoring

Monitoring of home learning provision will be undertaken by the Senior Leadership Team regularly. The policy will be reviewed annually. Children and families views on home learning will be part of our communications plan.