

Morville C.E. Primary School

Policy: Homework

Reviewed Autumn 2015

Member of staff responsible: S Blackburn

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Homework Policy

Introduction

Homework is anything children do outside the normal school day that contributes to their learning. Homework encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents to support the children's learning.

Rationale for homework

Children can benefit greatly from the complementary learning that they do at home. We want our children to develop as independent learners; we aim to set homework challenges that help children acquire the skills of independent learning, perseverance and collaborative working. We believe that intervention, interest and investment of time by "a significant adult" determines whether the activities will be accomplished and have a positive impact on learning. We therefore endeavour to set homework challenges that can be done with family members.

Aims and objectives

The aims and objectives of homework are:

- to help pupils develop the skills of an independent learner;
- to promote cooperation between home and school in supporting each child's learning;
- to consolidate and reinforce the learning done in school, and to allow children to practice skills taught in lessons;
- to help children develop good work habits for the future.

Regular Homework

Reception

- Phonetically decodable reading books. We ask for 3 – 5 times reading aloud to an adult each week with an adult signature.
- Tricky 'red' words and letter sounds which are listed in the back of children's purple reading record.

KS1

- Phonetically decodable reading books (year 1). We ask for 3 – 5 times reading aloud to an adult each week with an adult signature.
- Reading books at an appropriate level (year 2). We ask for 3 – 5 times reading aloud to an adult each week with an adult signature.
- Tricky 'red' words which are listed in the back of children's red reading record with the expectation all children should learn to read and spell these words
- Number facts which earn certificates
- Mathletics for year 2
- All years have a spelling task set weekly and recorded in children's homework books.

KS2

- Reading books – children will record regular reading in their reading diary. We ask for 3 – 5 times reading aloud to an adult each week with an adult signature.
- Mathletics for all KS2 children to support mental maths skills.
- All years have an English and Mathematics task set weekly and recorded in children's homework books.

- Occasionally there may be additional research based homework linked to the current theme.

Targets

Alongside the regular homework you can help our child to work towards their targets in reading, writing and maths. The mathematics and English targets are glued into the back of children's homework / reading diaries.

In KS1, highlighted target shows the individual child's target.

KS2 children work towards termly targets in maths and ongoing targets in English. KS2 children will be expected to update their homework diaries when they have achieved their targets.

Time spent on homework

Research has shown that parents taking an interest in their children's learning is what reaps the most benefits. Studies also show that homework can cause friction at home and is often left to the last minute and rushed. At Morville, we want to avoid this. Tasks will be set, with a reasonable deadline on a weekly basis. We hope that parents and children will enjoy working together on these small tasks.

We acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development. While homework is important, it should not prevent children from taking part in the activities of various out-of-school clubs, family trips or excursions. Children can record their learning or enjoyment of such events if they so wish.

The role of parents

Parents have a vital role to play in their child's education, and homework is an important part of this process. We ask parents to encourage their child to complete the homework tasks that are set. We invite them to help their children as and when they feel it to be necessary, and to provide them with the sort of environment that allows children to do their best. Parents can support their child by providing a good working space at home, and by discussing the work that their child is doing.

Use of IT

The use of IT and the Internet has made a significant contribution to the amount of reference material available at home, and the ease and speed with which it can be accessed. There are many websites containing highly educational material which can have a powerful effect on children's learning. Teachers will advise parents of useful websites to help with their homework where it is appropriate. Parents are advised always to supervise their child's access to the Internet.