

Homework Policy

At Purley Oaks we believe that interesting and challenging homework can play an important part in raising standards of achievement of all our pupils.

Our definition of "homework" is any work or activities which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time – either on their own or with parents/carers. It is not finishing off lesson work. However, on occasion, some children will be asked to complete some class work.

The purpose of homework at Purley Oaks is to:

- develop individual responsibility and organisation skills
- extend and support the learning activities offered to pupils
- provide opportunities for parents/carers and pupils to work together and to enjoy and share learning experiences
- promote independent thinking
- help pupils to develop a routine of studying
- help pupils to develop their research skills
- increase parental/carer knowledge about the curriculum

How much homework?

Reading

All pupils will be expected to take home a **reading book** and **reading record daily**. In nursery, children take home a book to share with parents. In reception, the reading book will be sent home for a week with an explanation of how to use it. Planners are expected to be signed by parents and checked **at least twice weekly** by teachers or teaching assistants. In key stage 1, they use a reward system with a sticker chart on the classroom wall to monitor the children reading at home. In key stage 2, if the children have their planner signed 10 days in a row they get an extra 10 minutes playtime.

Spellings

Children will be taught specific phonic patterns and spelling rules (see spelling non – negotiables and NC). They will be encouraged to learn these rules and collect words that follow the pattern but will not be given lists of words to learn.

In reception, the children are expected to learn the 45 high frequency words and these will be sent home in a wallet throughout the year.

They may also be given words to learn from the list of essential words for their year group.

Mental maths skills

Parents must be directed to the school website where each year group's Learning Ladders and the school calculations policy can be found. This will enable them to support children appropriately.

The following skills should be practised at home:

- Reception: find the total number of items in two groups by counting all of them; say the number that is one more or one less than a given number. Subtract/ take away units; double and halve units; share small numbers into groups.
- Children in Year 1 should learn number bonds to 10 and to 20 with speed. Count in multiples of 2, 5 and 10.

- Children in Year 2 should know number bonds to 20 and 100 with speed, count in steps of 2, 3, 5, and 10 starting from any number, count in multiples of 2, 5 and 10.
- Children in year 3 should count in multiples of 4, 8, 50 and 100, find 10 or 100 more or less than a given number; recall times tables facts and associated division facts for 2, 3, 4, 5 and 10.
- Children in year 4 should count in multiples of 6, 7, 9, 25 and 100; find 100 more or less than a given number; recall all times tables facts and associated division facts up to 10×10 .
- Children in year 5 should add and subtract numbers mentally with increasingly large numbers; recall times table facts and associated division facts up to 12×12 .
- Children in year 6 should perform mental calculations, including those with mixed operations (+, -, \times and \div).

In addition, children are encouraged to use **My Maths** and/ or **RMEasimaths** online at least twice a week. Those without internet access at home may use the LRC at lunch time or after school with their parents and carers. Class teachers or TAs should check weekly and encourage children to use this resource.

Timetables

These will be sent home on a Friday for certain year groups– see appendix 4.

Weekly homework

This will be set by the class teachers and clearly explained, when handed out. It will be revision of what has been taught in class and is to be completed in the homework book. For reception to year 2, the English homework will consist of phonics work and from year 3 to year 6, it will be GPS work. The maths homework will be 3 word problems (age appropriate). See appendix 4 for timetable and frequency. These tasks should be completed with an adult at home, then marked (if appropriate) and initialled by an adult to indicate completion.

The homework will be monitored by the teacher or TA, who will give verbal feedback and initial its completion.

Homework projects

All year groups will have **one project** to complete during the year. This will be decided by the teachers in the year group according to the curriculum challenge. Details and expectations will be sent home at the start of the half-term, and children will be expected to work on this project each week (approx 45 minutes in years 5 & 6).

The project will consist of:

- A written task, connected to one of the writing genres and Learning Challenges for that half term
- A practical project – connected to the Learning Challenge for that half term.

Deadlines should be one week before the end of each half term.

Year group leaders will organise the sending home weekly of “milestones” for the projects in the format shown in appendix 2. Staff will encourage children to report on progress and to approach them for any help or support along the way. They will also encourage parents to discuss the project with them as necessary.

N.B. during the Spring Term there will be extra revision activities for Year 6 in preparation for SATs.

Children who do not complete the homework task at all, or to an unacceptable level in the time given should:

- Be sent to a member of the SLT to explain why it has not been done.
- Work on their project at break times and lunchtimes during the last week of half term.
- Take home a letter to parents informing them of the sanctions (year group leaders to organise)

Marking and Presentation

Homework will **always** be assessed verbally and initialed in school.

The children will be expected to maintain the same high presentation of work as in their class work.

Therefore, the use of felt pens, scribbling, untidy writing, drawing in pen, lines drawn without a ruler will not be acceptable.

Celebration

As with all other work done in school, special effort and achievement will be recognised in our Monday Pride in Excellence, celebration Assembly.

Keeping parents informed

Each half term, teachers will send home a year group newsletter, outlining Learning Challenges and homework expectations. In this way, we aim to keep parents more informed about the school curriculum. Homework will also be explained at the "Meet the Teacher" meetings.

Policy review date: September 2017