

# **Homework policy for Overdale Junior School**

## **1. Introduction**

At Overdale Junior School we believe homework should be meaningful, have a purpose and provide an opportunity to help children practise skills that will enable them to enjoy and further access the curriculum. We also value the opportunity to build relationships between home and school. Furthermore, daily reading is essential at any age, as this helps children to develop and master key literacy skills. Every child is expected to read at home for a minimum of 20 minutes a day and complete other homework tasks totalling approximately one and half hours a week. We aim to ensure consistency of approach across the school.

## **2. Aims and purpose of Homework**

- To provide a valuable opportunity for parents and carers to support their children's learning in partnership with the school
- To help children to keep up with the demands of the curriculum, especially reading, and aged related learning objectives
- To be creative and extend the learning beyond the classroom, making real-life connections
- To encourage children to become more independent learners
- To prepare children in Y6 for transfer

## **3. Responsibilities**

The class teacher is responsible for setting homework, and for checking and responding with a stamp or verbal feedback. Assignments are not marked in depth like some other classroom work. In addition we aim to recognise excellent homework by celebrating regularly in class or in assembly time. The work may also be displayed in school.

The child, with parental support, is responsible for completing homework and handing it in on Wednesday morning. Homework is an essential part of supporting your child's learning, however the school understands this is sometimes easier said than done. We believe homework should not occupy all of a child's leisure/family time or detract from busy lifestyles outside school. Where homework is proving difficult parents/carers should talk to their child's class teacher to find a way forward.

## **4. Parental Support**

Parents/carers play a key role reading with their children for at least 20 minutes a day. In addition they can provide a quiet place to work and encourage pupils to complete tasks to the best of their ability. They can clarify instructions, help organise work, provide resources and encourage the use of information technology where possible. Where projects are set children are given written guidance on how to approach this task. Parents should not complete homework for children, but should encourage children to take pride in their work, praising their efforts and achievement.

## **5. Homework club**

Currently Homework Club is funded by and targeted at Pupil Premium children. It is run by Teaching Assistants on Monday and Tuesday for one hour and 25 minutes, finishing at 4.45pm. The aim is to provide a quiet space and resources for pupils to complete their homework and to hear children read.

In response to the school council homework survey towards the end of the week teachers will remind children about their homework explaining what they need to do and raising expectations about what is required.

## 6. Homework Booklets

Homework tasks are discussed and set by teachers in each year group and we aim for consistency and fairness over year groups, and across the whole school. Children are given guidance by their class teacher as to what to do and how long to spend on it. Normally, homework is based on the current curriculum theme and children should spend no more than 1.5 hours a week on it. In addition every child is expected to read at home for a minimum of 20 minutes a day, where possible with an adult. Tasks will focus on core skills including learning times tables, maths skills, grammar and spelling. There will also be other optional so-called Bingo style tasks where children can choose what to do. Pupils are encouraged to do their own research and be creative in the presentation of their homework. Teachers aim to communicate clearly with parents about weekly homework tasks and produce termly Homework Booklets for each year group. These are also published on the school website when they become available (or coincide with a new topic). Please note as news ones are published the old ones will be removed to avoid confusion. In addition some teachers may use social media, including Twitter, to remind children about their homework, for example, by tweeting spelling lists or maths puzzles. Year 6 children may receive different homework in preparation for the May SAT's tests.

Extra help can also be found on the school website [www.overdale-jun.leicester.sch.uk](http://www.overdale-jun.leicester.sch.uk) including support with reading, dyslexia friendly advice, getting into a routine and videos showing current maths calculation methods.

## 7. Homework Timetable (Allow approximately 1.5 hours to complete weekly homework spread over the week in addition to 20 minutes daily reading)

|        | Year 3   | Year 4   | Year 5   | Year 6   |
|--------|--|--|--|--|
| Daily  | Reading 20 minutes (to an adult where possible and ask them to sign your Reading Journal)                  | Reading 20 minutes (to an adult where possible and ask them to sign your Reading Journal)    | Reading 20 minutes (to an adult where possible and ask them to sign your Reading Journal)    | Reading 20 minutes (to an adult where possible and ask them to sign your Reading Journal)              |
| Weekly | Maths Basic skills sheet (Spring Term onwards -focus on a maximum of 3 different questions)<br>Learn times | Maths basic skills sheet (focus on a maximum of 3 different questions)<br>Learn times tables | Maths basic skills sheet (focus on a maximum of 3 different questions)<br>Learn times tables | Maths basic skills sheet (focus on a maximum of 3 different questions)<br>Y6 may have additional SAT's |

|   |   |  |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|--|
|   | tables  |  |  | homework.  |
| Weekly  | Grammar Hammer (focus on a maximum of 3 different questions)  | Grammar Hammer (focus on a maximum of 3 different questions)                               | Grammar Hammer (focus on a maximum of 3 different questions)                               | Grammar Hammer (focus on a maximum of 3 different questions)<br>Y6 may have additional SAT's homework.     |
| Weekly  | Spellings – learn spellings for a weekly test. These may be posted on Twitter.  | Spellings – learn spellings for a weekly test. These may be posted on Twitter.             | Spellings – learn spellings for a weekly test. These may be posted on Twitter.             | Spellings – learn spellings for a weekly test. These may be posted on Twitter.                             |
| Weekly  | Homework Bingo – (Optional tasks based on the curriculum theme). Complete one task a week. Philosophy for Children tasks are intended as discussions at home. | Homework Bingo – (Optional tasks based on the curriculum theme). Complete one task a week. | Homework Bingo – (Optional tasks based on the curriculum theme). Complete one task a week. | Homework Bingo. (Optional tasks based on the curriculum theme).<br>Y6 may have specific SAT's homework. ** |
| <p>Holiday homework is occasionally set and children are encouraged to continue reading during school holidays.</p> <p>** At busy times the expectation on Year 6 homework will vary. This will be identified by the class teacher.</p> |   |  |  |  |

## 8. Support and expectations

At Overdale children are strongly encouraged to do homework. Research shows daily reading at home has significant benefits for all children. Homework is regularly discussed at the Overdale Schools' Parent Forum where all views are sought. Parents are welcome to raise this as an agenda item. If you have any concerns about homework please see your child's class teacher and something can be worked out.

## 9. Review:

This policy will be reviewed every two years.

**Adopted:** May 2018

**Next policy review:** May 2020

**Reviewed:** Signed, dated, chair of Governors/Headteacher