

Lady Lovat Primary School

Homework Policy

Rationale

Research has shown that the completion of homework has a very positive and significant effect on children's achievement and beds down positive learning habits for life long learning.

Purposes:

- It allows consolidation of work done in school
- It allows for children to prepare for the work to come
- It develops research skills such as using libraries and other resources which may not be available in the classroom
- It provides opportunities for individualised work
- It provides structured opportunities for parental involvement and support
- It provides information for parents about the on-going work of the class
- It encourages the children to develop a sense of ownership and responsibility for learning
- It develops good habits of independence and self-discipline in learning
- It trains pupils in planning and organising their time

How and when is homework given out?

All children will be given out their homework for the week on a Friday/Monday and it should be handed in on the following Friday/Monday. Homework is given out as a weekly assignment to help the children from an early age to plan when to do their homework. It also allows flexibility if children have other activities on during the week, for example, Cubs or Swimming Lessons. Homework is not usually given out the first and last week of a term.

Homework/Reading Diaries

To help both the parent and the child to focus on the homework, the pupils are given a diary with the homework noted inside. The diary can be used by both parent and teacher to pass on any comments about the homework.

Reading

The Primary 1, pupils are given home story bags to share with parents as part of their homework over the first year in addition to reading from the reading programme.

Reading from the reading programme will always be prepared in the class at the lower end of the school and should be reinforced at home. The Oxford Reading Tree Programme, with other reading books, is utilised to support reading. At the early stages it is appreciated if the parents read the story, discuss the pictures, the main characters and ask the child to anticipate what might happen next. The children will also have words/sounds to learn. Sometimes the children may be asked to read the next chapter/s in a short text as they become more able readers.

In the upper part of the school most children will use the reading programme Oxford Tree Tops and class novels to support reading. The core book the children read goes home and the children complete associated work within the classroom. The children may not have set home reading to do every night but **will** have some reading related activity to complete within the weekly homework assignment.

At all stages children will be given chosen library books to take home to share with parents.

Spelling

The children may be given out spelling words to learn over the week. Often they will be words with a common letter pattern but they will also learn to spell basic words and sometimes they will have spellings relating to their project.

To help the children really **learn** the words, parents should ask the children to spell them throughout the week – writing them out on one occasion is not usually enough to memorise the words. The children should be encouraged to use the **Look, Read, Cover, Write, Check** method so they are looking at and trying to remember the whole word and not sounding it out (as many words are not spelled the way they sound!).

Other language homework

The children may be asked to complete other language homework based on work being taught in the class e.g. aspects of grammar, cloze procedures, a short written personal account or report. In the upper stages, pupils may be given the opportunity to write the first draft of a story.

Social Studies Homework

The children may be given homework relating to their class projects. This may involve investigating and gathering information, completing related work sheets and at the middle to top end of the school some simple research work.

All children from primary 4 to 7 will at some time be asked to complete a short written personal project and prepare a personal talk. Some aspects of this may be included in homework.

Catching up

If a child begins to fall behind his/her group, or does not complete given work in school then they may be given work home to catch up but this should only be on the odd occasion and if there are any ongoing problems with this, the class teacher would contact the parents to try and resolve them.

Instrumental Practice

This may involve recorder, guitar, violin, flute or clarsach. Individual tutors set homework for instrumental practice at home. Should a pupil find it difficult to maintain practice, due to the number of instruments they are playing, then time during the school day will be allocated to allow extra practice.

Where should the children do their homework?

Individual children have their preferences, but in general the following conditions are thought best:

1. In a warm, well lit area of the house.
2. On a flat surface, preferably a table/desk for all written activities.
3. For reading find a comfortable chair.
4. Away from distractions like TV, pets or other family members who are not involved in the homework.

Time allocation for homework

The following is a guide for time that should be spent on homework averaging out per night:

- **Primary 1 and 2 – up to 15 minutes a night**
- **Primary 3 and 4 – up to 20 minutes a night**
- **Primary 5, 6 and 7 – up to 30 minutes a night**

Checklist for parents

- ❖ Ask on a Friday/Monday what homework has to be done. This has to be completed by the following Friday/Monday.
- ❖ Supervise the homework, discuss it with your child and encourage them to do the best they can.
- ❖ Help your child to organise his/her homework into a little a night rather than the whole lot on the night before!
- ❖ If your child fails to hand in her/his homework on Friday/Monday twice within a month without a genuine excuse, we will enlist your support in ensuring that the homework is completed in future.

Suggestions on how parents can help their children at home, is discussed at parents' evenings and is included in the summer pupil report for parents.

Monitoring and Review

A copy of the Homework policy is included in the School Prospectus and is reissued to parents periodically to take account of any changes in practice or to highlight changes in the school's homework priorities. Homework is reviewed within the cycle of school improvement planning. The Head Teacher samples homework diaries throughout the year.

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