GREENS NORTON C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL – HOMEWORK POLICY

Approved by	Date	Due for Review
Miss Ruth Fox (Chair of Governors)	October 2022	October 2023
Mrs Sue Marsh (Head Teacher)		

INTRODUCTION

Our aim is to educate, inspire and nurture every child to have the confidence and skills to excel in their achievements. We recognise the valuable part that homework can play in achieving this, alongside the many other rich and varied experiences that children enjoy outside of school. Homework works best when supported by parents and valued by teachers.

We believe the purpose of homework is to practise and reinforce classroom learning and to give children the opportunity to develop independent learning skills and responsibility.

HOMEWORK

Reading, Spelling and Maths Facts

Our aim is for all children to develop a love of reading and take pleasure in immersing themselves in a good book. However, we recognise that this takes time and does not happen automatically for all children. Learning to read is difficult and requires regular practice. Our expectation is that children will read at home at least five times per week; for younger children this will be to an adult; older children may read independently but should be asked about their reading by an interested adult. For younger early readers, a reading book will be sent home that is closely matched to the phonics sounds the child has learned and practised in school. For older children, they may read a book of their own from home, or one chosen from the school library. Parents/carers and children are encouraged to record their reading - simply the date and pages read - in a reading record book, which is monitored by the class teacher on a weekly basis. If a child is not meeting this expectation, then support will be given through encouragement and if necessary, consequences (see below regarding actions taken if homework is not completed).

Children in Years 2 to 6 are taught spelling rules and associated strategies regularly in school. The spelling rule being taught and associated example words are communicated to parents at the start of each unit. In Year 1 children are given a short list of common words to learn to spell at home each week.

From Year 2 children are expected to learn and practise Key Instant Recall Facts for Mathematics. These are described for each year group in a termly publication to parents/carers.

Literacy and Maths set pieces

In addition, each week pupils in Years 2 to 6 will receive either Literacy or Maths homework based around learning already practised in school, i.e. consolidation of previous learning. In preparation for a more extensive homework programme in secondary school, our Year 6 pupils receive both Literacy and Maths homework weekly. This homework is generally given out on a Friday and is expected back in on a Thursday in the child's Homework book. Homework handed in on time will be marked ready for return with the following week's task.

Reception children

The focus in Reception is primarily the acquisition of phonics knowledge through practising the letter sounds and words learnt in school that week. Decodable reading books are sent home for practice, as the children

are ready, as well as flashcards with non-decodable 'red words' that require children to read by sight.

SCHOOL SUPPORT WITH HOMEWORK

It is expected that children complete their homework in a set time. This ensures pupils gain valuable experience of working to a deadline and assists staff with their marking schedules. Where children do not complete weekly homework in the given time, they will be expected to complete it during their own playtime.

We try to ensure that instructions concerning homework are clear to everyone in class. Opportunities for dialogue over issues concerned with homework exist through contact with the school and the class teacher. Extra support is offered in school where it is required, or difficulties are communicated to the class teacher.

PARENTAL SUPPORT WITH HOMEWORK

Whilst we appreciate parental supervision to ensure that homework is completed, we also value parental participation in homework tasks. This shared opportunity will enhance the learning for the child through support with reading and the re-call of core knowledge as well as research and development for more creative tasks.

The school website offers further ideas and help on how best to support children with learning at home.