

THE ALDERTON INFANT SCHOOL

HOMEWORK POLICY

Definition

"Homework" refers to any work or activities which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents or carers.

The Purposes of Homework

Doing homework helps children develop important skills, in particular those of independent learning. To be effective, homework needs to be part of a wider partnership between parents and the school. The active involvement of parents and carers in joint activities, which may be quite brief, is most valuable in promoting children's learning.

Homework can help to consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding, particularly in literacy and numeracy. As children get older and move into Key Stages 2 and 3, the purposes of homework change and the amount will increase.

Homework at The Alderton Infant School

For children in this school, homework largely consists of regular reading with parents and carers, looking at books together. Children should either read to their parents or carers, listen to them reading or, if they are young fluent readers, read on their own or share the reading of more challenging books with a supportive adult (e.g. 'your turn, my turn, your page, my page').

The "Reading Diaries" encourage a two-way dialogue between home and school with the children also being encouraged to draw pictures, copy phrases, write sentences or, for the more able, write a review of the book they have read at home. Parents and carers are asked to sign the diary when they hear their child read - at least four times a week please.

Other literacy related homework will include children bringing home key reading words to learn by sight, spellings, either in word families (e.g. mat, cat, sat, fat); or the more tricky words. Children use the "Look, cover, write, check".

From the first term in the Reception Year, parents and carers are involved in helping their children with key words. They may also be encouraged to practise letter formation at home, learn rhymes connected with numbers e.g., "one, two, three, four, five – once I caught a fish alive" or spot number shapes in the environment. They are encouraged to play Numbers games that may support their mathematical learning such as; snakes and ladders, puzzles, cooking etc. During the holiday period, staff set an activity or challenge for the children to complete at home with their family.

Parents are reminded of the importance of sharing books together, talking about the pictures and focusing the children on the print. They are also encouraged to make up

stories with their children, build up their imagination and the increasing the complexity of the different vocabulary they use.

It is also highlighted to parents the educational benefits of having lots of different experiences inside and outside the home e.g. going for seasonal walks, visits to places of interest and talking about what they hear, smell, see, touch and taste.

Later, children may also bring home number facts to practise and learn, information and instructions on skills and topics, games or family surveys which may be linked to either literacy or numeracy.

Mathematics homework is weekly from Year 1 and allows the children to follow up an aspect of the maths covered that week in school. The homework is on-line and login details for Abacus are in the rear of your child's reading diary. Parents are reminded that children should always be supervised when using the Internet.

As topic work is introduced in school the children will be encouraged to find out more at home and share this in school. Children are encouraged to use the computer/internet (with parent supervision of course) to develop their knowledge further, and to report back findings to the class. Visits to the local library are positively encouraged too.

The Role of Parents and Carers in Supporting Pupils

The school would like parents to provide a reasonably, peaceful place and time for sharing homework activities, making it clear that they value homework. Parents are asked to take their child to the local library and share books together. The development of conversational skills ie good speaking and listening is also important in the home. Parents should encourage pupils as much as they can by giving lots of praise throughout.

A weekly and half termly outline of work is displayed outside each classroom for parents to follow up at home or the local library. A weekly overview of topic planning is also emailed home, so do make sure we have your email address please.