



Be watchful. Stand firm in your faith. Be strong. Be courageous. And let everything you do be done in love. 1 Corinthians 16: 13-14

Homework Policy

“Growing Together in God’s Love”

Rationale

At Pattishall CE Primary School we like to keep things simple. We believe that children should be given time to enjoy their family lives and allow their brains to rest and absorb the information covered at the end of an intense learning day.

We are also aware of the many out of school commitments our children are lucky to experience, the business of modern family life, the continuous homework battles many parents experience and the stress and deadlines that stretches out for years ahead of them of – why introduce this at such a young age? We want our children to continue learning through enjoyment, experience and exploration. They will learn far more from a nature walk with their family or planning their own art and craft project than filling in the blanks on a worksheet.

However, we recognise and value the importance and discipline of regular learning activity at home in order to build confidence, prepare them for the next step, increase parental engagement in the learning journey and to help reduce screen time.

We are confident that the curriculum we provide is carefully crafted and meets all the requirements of the 2014 National Curriculum. We are also confident that our teaching and assessment is robust and accurately in providing your children with a tailor made learning journey that enables them to reach their full potential. Therefore we ask parents to support us by:

Content

- Reading at least 5 times a week for up to 20 minutes with your child
- Practising spellings with your child and testing them at home
- Practising times tables daily
- Supporting Topic learning with regular research projects, set at least once per half term

Aims for Homework

- To build confidence through regular reading.
- To engage children with their own imaginations through regular reading.
- To improve writing through understanding the structure of different genres.
- To develop communication skills through discussions about reading.
- To increase vocabulary through sharing challenging texts (Students who scored 90% better than their peers on **reading tests**, **read** for more than **20 minutes a day** – exposing them to 1.8 million words a year. Students who scored at fifty percentile, **read** on average only **4.6 minutes a day** – exposing them to 282,000 words per year).
- To learn basic sentence structure and Grammar through seeing it modelled in their reading.
- To increase grey matter in the hippocampus (memory hub) and the frontal cortex and create neural pathways around the amygdala (fight/flight/freeze) through the mindfulness we experience when reading.
- To reduce the amount of screen time children are unknowingly exposed to (which has the opposite effect of mindfulness – causing anxiety and/or anger).
- To save time in lessons (*that can be used to move learning and discovery forward*) learning tables and spellings by rote.
- To save time in lessons through testing and revisiting at home.
- To reduce anxiety and confusion as the methods we teach in school are very different to ‘when we were at school’.
- To give families their Sundays back.

Pattishall CE Primary is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.



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Practicalities of Organisation

Each child from Year 1 to Year 6 will receive a pre-printed Homework Diary in which to record their reading, spellings and tables commitments.

Children need to be engaged in focused reading for **at least** 10 minutes every day (preferably up to 20 minutes): bedtime is the perfect opportunity to share a book and record it in the Homework Diary.

For every 5 reads, your child will earn a House Point AND a raffle ticket. There will then be a raffle at the end of each week in each class.

All children are expected to know all their multiplication tables up to 12x12 by the end of Year 4. Children need to practise their times tables for 5 minutes every day: may be on the walk home?

Please refer to the spelling lists to see the words that all children must know by the end of Key Stage Two. Children need to practise their spellings for 5 minutes every day.

Your child's teacher will set Topic related homework as and when appropriate; at least once a half term.

Resources

- Homework diary
- School Library
- Reading Schemes
- Public Library
- Home reading books
- Newspapers, magazines, comics

Evaluation, Monitoring and review

The English Lead will monitor a sample of Homework Diaries each half term and report on the effectiveness of the reading taking place in line with the Reading, Writing and Maths results the children produce.

Children who are not reading regularly will be at a disadvantage and may require extra support in school as a result.

Many thanks to our parents for their on-going support.

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