

## **Yerbury Primary School Homework Policy**

We know that our pupils work really hard at school and we acknowledge their down time at home is important for extra-curricular activities, relaxation and family time. Children need undirected time at home and at the weekend to help extend their imaginative play, their creativity and to ensure mental well-being. We do not believe in setting pieces of homework without a purpose, and do not intend homework to be stressful or to put parents or children under pressure. We hope that the homework we set can be a pleasant, shared experience in which parents can be involved with their children's learning. It can be completed at each child's own pace and hope that parents feel able to know and say when enough is enough for their child at home, and not let homework overburden them.

We strongly believe that homework should *add* to classroom teaching rather than replace it, and that homework should be used to:

- Practise things that need on-going repetition and time (such as spellings and times tables)
- Consolidate, reinforce or extend work covered at school
- Encourage children to become independent learners who can take responsibility for their learning and organise themselves
- Remind children that learning does not only take place at school.

### **What we do:**

We foster a consistent approach across the school and hope that homework is clear and straight-forward to complete, with the impact being seen in the children's work and confidence in school. The homework activities which we feel will have the biggest impact on your child are reading, spelling and times tables, as well as helping your child to tell the time and understand money. The home environment lends itself to other useful and fun learning, as explained more below.

### **Reading**

We know that children who read and are read to and see others read regularly at home make speedier progress at school. Reading is a crucial life skill that is needed to access the curriculum and to develop a child's creative ideas.

Every child at Yerbury is expected to read or share a book regularly at home so that reading skills, understanding and enjoyment develop rapidly. Reading regularly (ideally as part of a daily routine) will also become a habit that will hopefully continue throughout life. Unless they are very fluent readers and regular readers, every child up to Year 3 is expected to have a PACT (Parents and Children and Teachers Together) bag, containing a PACT booklet and reading book/s, in school on their specified day every week. On that day the teacher will read with them in a small group and make written comments in their PACT booklet. This will also continue in Years 4, 5 and 6 for those who may still benefit from it. Parents are encouraged to comment on the child's reading at home too.

## **Spellings**

Every class from Yr 2 upwards has a weekly spelling lesson following the National Curriculum. The words taught in this lesson will be sent home on a weekly basis and parents and carers are asked to explore and learn these words at home. With the exception of Year 6, these words are not tested in school so we do ask that parents take an active role in ensuring they are learnt. Spellings will be differentiated to the individual's needs when appropriate. Year 1 will send home weekly phonics/ spelling work as appropriate.

## **Times tables**

Times tables need to be practised regularly, and they lend themselves well to being done at home in the children's own time. There is a year group expectation for times tables which all parents receive at Parents' Evening in Autumn Term and it is on the website on the class pages. We ask you to use this to help understand which tables to practise with the children, using as varied and creative ways as you wish.

Once they are confident multiplying, parents are encouraged to practise the inverse with them (division e.g.  $4 \times 5 = 20$ ,  $20 \div 4 = 5$  or  $20 \div 5 = 4$ ) to become quicker at recall, and to help understand the relationship between multiplication and division. We also strongly advise parents to encourage their children to recall their times tables randomly, not purely chronologically/ by rote. An easy way to do this is to create times tables cards, and jumble them up when they practise or there are many apps nowadays which help children practise them.

## **Practical activities**

We believe that many aspects of our curriculum can be really well supported by fun activities at home. Measure can be explored through cookery and building, money is well practised when out and about at the shops, time can be learnt by wearing a watch and talking to your child about the time, and times tables can be practised when walking to school and playing games such as multiplying the numbers in a car number plate.

We encourage parents to actively look for links between the topics children are doing at school, and practical activities/ trips they could be part of/ do at home, to help consolidate and contextualise the learning for them in 'real' life.

## **Other activities**

Once a year, there will be the opportunity for every child to give a short presentation to their class, which can be on a topic of their choosing and should be something they have researched and prepared at home (a more detailed and prepared show and tell). There may be an occasional research piece to support topic work.

## Years 5 and 6

One of our responsibilities to our pupils is to prepare them for a life beyond Yerbury. Therefore, our Year 6 pupils will receive weekly spelling and grammar homework and a more formal piece which could either be maths or English. Our year 5 pupils will also take this approach from the summer term of Year 5.

## Different Learning Needs and Learning Styles

We are keen to accommodate children's different learning needs and styles in the homework that we give, as we do in school. Children will receive homework tailored to their learning needs, where this is appropriate. We use multi-sensory learning methods in school and we can help you to use these at home; we also teach and encourage using a variety of ways of recording longer pieces of work, which again you can help your child with at home. You can find more information about our different approaches on the school website. Yerbury is a "Dyslexia Friendly School", and we do not want any child to struggle with homework. Please let us know if we can provide any further assistance or ideas for your child's work at home.

## Our website

Our parents are eager and willing to support the learning that takes place in school with further activities at home and we are delighted by this. We are constantly developing our school website to provide links and suggested activities for all year groups. Please look at the 'Learning Links' page on the school website, and if you come across any brilliant links, do let us know and we'll be happy to add them.

## Summary of homework:

Nursery	Daily reading
Reception	Daily reading
Year 1	Daily reading Weekly phonics/ spelling practice Times tables practice later in the year linked to year group
Years 2-5	Daily reading Spelling homework (sent on a Fri and returned on Tue) Times tables practice linked to year group Occasional piece of research homework Annual presentation to class
Year 6 (and Yr 5 summer term onwards)	Daily reading Spelling homework (sent on a Fri and returned on Tue) Times tables practice linked to year group Weekly task – English or maths Annual presentation to class

We encourage parents to help their children to have a good go at their homework and to bring it back to school by the agreed date. Teachers will acknowledge the punctual receipt of the work, but will not mark the homework. Parents are therefore encouraged to contact their child's teacher, as soon as is convenient, if there is any

sort of difficulty with homework so that the teacher can support either the parent or child as necessary.

We are very keen that homework is a positive experience for every child and family, and genuinely contributes to the child's learning.

Agreed by staff January 2017

Agree by Governors February 2017

To be reviewed in February 2019