



What can be the positives of homework?

- Can inform parents about work going on in class
- Can further stimulate enthusiasm for learning
- Takes advantage of the home environment and resources, and the chance for some one-to-one adult time
- Can be a great source for gathering topic information to share with all pupils
- Is a great opportunity to rehearse key skills, such as times tables, doubling facts, addition sums, spellings, handwriting and other key facts
- Helps to foster good habits of organization and self-discipline in preparation for the demands of secondary school

Homework at our school

Whilst we support all of the above key principles, Heather Primary is not a school at which homework dominates home and school life. We accept that not every activity will capture children and parents' imagination and that weekends can sometimes be busy. We believe that homework should be enjoyable and manageable for all concerned and that if it becomes a chore/burden/source of conflict it ceases to be a constructive aspect of teaching and learning.

We do not specify amounts of time that must be spent on a task, preferring individual children and families to set their own routines. Individual teachers are happy to give advice. We hope the children are motivated by positive incentives and by the tasks themselves; children are not punished if they fail to complete the work. However discreet homework registers are kept and if a child consistently fails to complete and return tasks, this is discussed with the child and their parents.

Our routines and expectations

The work should always have been explained and discussed in class before coming home; it may be a continuation of classwork, or a maths games already familiar to your child.

It is our intention, and good practice, not to send work home that the child cannot already do i.e. parents are not expected to teach new skills. There should be a clear explanation/reminder from the teacher of what is expected.

Each child has a homework book and all tasks are kept in there.

Broadly speaking these are the current expectations:

Reception – daily reading and learning key words when appropriate; Friday maths challenge at least every fortnight; half-termly activities/tasks in Homework books.

Year 1 and 2 – daily reading, weekly spellings, MyMaths on a fortnightly basis and half-termly activities in Homework book.

Years 3 and 4 – daily reading, weekly times tables (for a weekly test), My Maths (fortnightly), spellings (as appropriate) and half-termly activities in Homework book.

Years 5 and 6 - daily reading, MyMaths (fortnightly), spellings (as appropriate) and half-termly activities in Homework book.

We expect children to maintain the same standards for presentation of homework as we set in school i.e. to use their best handwriting and a sharp pencil or blue pen.

As far as possible, homework will be related to class topics. This is important as it helps parents to know more about what is going on in class and to support enthusiasm for learning. Parents might, for example, find themselves supporting research of Egyptian Gods, finding out about grandparents’ experience of school or measuring objects around the home. This also means that each child can pursue a set task at their own level of ability.

It is our policy not to give homework over the holidays and half term breaks. The exception will be where the parent and teacher agree extra work would be beneficial. Where children have additional needs, teachers may send specific tasks home to support their learning. Again, this will be discussed with parents.

If you take holiday during term-time, something we actively discourage, parents may not request work from the teacher. We suggest that parents organize a holiday diary.

What to do if you have concerns

If you find the homework inappropriate for your child, if they lack interest, if it becomes a battleground or if you are concerned that homework is given inconsistently please talk with your child’s teacher in the first instance. If you still have concerns, please talk with the Headteacher.

Agreed – July 2017

Review – July 2018