



Home learning Policy

January 2019

Aim: To extend high quality learning beyond the limits of the school day.

We believe that the range of home learning we provide will help pupils develop the skills and attitudes they will need for successful, lifelong learning.

We attach great importance to the links that exist between home and school; it is only by working together that we can ensure the best possible education for your child. One important aspect of this joint effort is home learning. To be effective home learning needs to be part of a wider partnership between parents and school. Parents have a key role to play in ensuring their children develop and maintain good home learning habits. We believe that pupils can best benefit from the work they bring home if they have full parental support. It is for this reason that this policy outlines our expectations.

You are far more important than school: Your influence is 6 times greater than school when your child is aged 7 and at the age of 11 or 12 your influence is 30% greater than school.

The school believes that home learning is an essential part of learning. It can contribute very effectively to raising achievement, for the following reasons:

- It encourages pupils to develop the confidence and self discipline needed to study.
- It gives pupils an opportunity to work independently, and to take responsibility for their own learning.
- It helps teachers check that pupils have understood class work.
- It can be used to extend work carried out in class.
- It can strengthen the liaison between home and school by increasing parental awareness of what their child is doing at school and gives them the opportunity to become actively involved.
- It allows pupils opportunities to extend their learning in more depth in areas that interest them and so develops their love of learning and independent research skills.
- It prepares pupils for the requirements of secondary school.

Timing and quantity of home learning

Your child will receive home learning each week. The purposes of home learning change as children move through the school. For children in KS1, developing a partnership with parents and involving them actively is the main purpose and the activities sent home may not be described as home learning.

On occasion some home learning will be in the form of an extended project spreading over two weeks. We do not wish to discourage pupils from spending more time than

detailed, if they are keen to do so, but we do not want your child to struggle on with a piece of work that they are finding too difficult. If your child has worked conscientiously for a reasonable amount of time, a note in the homework book for the teacher would be appreciated. This can then be followed up in school and extra support given.

Range of homework tasks

Daily reading

At Polegate we do have an expectation that children will read at home every night right from nursery to year 6! We do not see this as work or a chore! This should be an enjoyable time to spend sharing stories.

Reasons Why You Should Read to Your Children

Research shows that reading to a young child is the single most important thing you can do to help your child's education.

What's the most important trait you'd like to develop in your child? If you're like most parents, intelligence is probably at the top of your list. We all want bright, smart children, As a parent, you have the power to boost your children's learning potential simply by making books an integral part of their lives.

Reading aloud helps children develop positive associations with books and reading.

- The nurturing and one-on-one attention from parents during reading aloud encourages children to form a positive association with books and reading later in life.
- Reading aloud is a proven technique to help children cope during times of stress or tragedy.

Reading to children has such a huge impact on their academic success that parents should do it from birth, experts say.

Story time routines benefit even the youngest children, helping them to build vocabulary and communication skills critical to later success in school, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) said this week in a new policy statement.

'Evidence suggests that children who read for enjoyment every day not only perform better in reading tests than those who don't, but also develop a broader vocabulary, increased general knowledge and a better understanding of other cultures.

In fact, reading for pleasure is more likely to determine whether a child does well at school than their social or economic background.'

What difference can I make as a parent?

You can make a huge difference! Parents are the most important educators in a child's life – even more important than their teachers – and it's never too early to start reading together.

Even before they're born, babies learn to recognise their parents' voices. Reading to your baby from birth, even for just a few minutes a day, gives them the comfort of hearing your voice and increases their exposure to language.

Building vocabulary and understanding

Learning to read is about listening and understanding as well as working out what's printed on the page. Through hearing stories, children are exposed to a wide range of words. This helps them build their own vocabulary and improve their understanding when they listen, which is vital as they start to read. It's important for them to understand how stories work too. Even if your child doesn't understand every word, they'll hear new sounds, words and phrases which they can then try out, copying what they have heard.

As children start to learn to read at school, you can play an important role in helping to keep them interested in books. Find out what interests them, help them to find books that will be engaging and fun, and spend time reading the books they bring home from school together.

Don't stop reading to your child even when they are a fluent reader. You can and should be reading books to them even in years 5 and 6. Select books that are more challenging and include words they have not encountered yet. This will improve not only their reading ability but also their writing.

Record all reading, not just school books in the reading journal. Parents need to initial the journal. Children that have read for 7 days in a row will be awarded a raffle ticket. This is drawn every Friday in assembly and the selected children from KS1 and 2 will choose a new book from the office!

Home learning Tasks: These may be a variety of tasks covering different subject areas. They are intended to appeal to different learning styles. Pupils may be able to select from a wide range of projects. We hope these will give the children a much greater sense of ownership and choice in their learning and develop independent learning skills. As parents please feel free to adapt the homework to suit your child's interest. Tasks are designed to be open ended. You may choose to create a film, model, take photographs, use ICT... the possibilities are limitless. The most important thing is that the task has captured your child's interest and they have developed their understanding of the subject. The school or teacher will not be cross if you have chosen to interpret the task in your own way!

Writing Journal

These are really special books designed to inspire writing. Children have ownership of these and can write whatever they like in them. Ideas will be given by teachers but children do not have to follow this. These books can have collage, photos, flaps, illustrations, diagrams in.....there is no limit to what the children can do.

- Writing journals will be celebrated but not marked by the teacher. We will work together to develop a culture in which children want to and are inspired to write in their journals.
- Children will have access to their journals so that when they are inspired to write they are able to do so whether that is in school or at home. The teacher does not have to direct this.
- There is a reward system in place to encourage all pupils to write in the journals and to recognise exceptional entries.

Children will bring their journals home at various times, including holidays

Literacy and Numeracy Tasks: These will be linked to the work carried out in class.

These times are a guide to the amount of homework your child can expect to receive as they move throughout the school. These times do not include reading.

A guide			
Year group	time	Home learning	
Reception	½ hour	Reading daily Number work	Home learning tasks will be set on a Friday and due in on a Wednesday.
Year 1 Year 2	(1 hour a week)	Mymaths every 2 weeks. Home learning tasks fortnightly Writing journals- termly	
Year 3 Year 4	(1 ½ hours a week)	Mymaths weekly Home learning tasks fortnightly Writing journals- twice a term	
Year 5 Year 6	(2 ½ hours a week-30 mins a day)	Mymaths weekly Home learning tasks fortnightly Writing journals- twice a term Revision may increase in the lead up to testing.	

We aim to prepare pupils for the transition to secondary school where the expectation in year 7 is that pupils will be spending a considerable amount of time per evening on homework. It is important that pupils should gradually get into the habit of regularly devoting periods of time to study on their own. We want the transition to secondary school to be as smooth as possible for our pupils.

Mymaths – topics on all elements of maths. Explanations of topics and chance to revise and practice.

TTSrockstar- times table practice in a fun way! We would recommend regular practice of timestables and short games should be played on this on a regular basis.

These are websites we use to develop home learning. Whilst tasks will be set by teachers families are welcome to use resources at any time and can access additional tasks whenever they would like. This may be used to consolidate work completed in school or for revision.

We aim to:

- Offer carefully planned and structured home learning to support progression in learning;
- Offer consistent practice across the school in setting, managing and marking homework;
- Offer a regular programme so that teachers, children and parents know what to expect each week;
- Ensure pupils and parents are very clear about what they need to do;
- Ensure parents are treated as partners in their children's learning;
- Have high expectations of pupils completing home learning;
- Ensure pupils receive prompt, clear feedback on their work;
- Ensure the needs of the individual pupil are taken into account;

- Provide opportunities for parents, pupils and school to work in partnership;
- Provide opportunities for parents and pupils to work/learn together and to enjoy learning experiences.

If home learning is not being handed in then the class teacher will inform you through a standard letter (*appendix 2*). There is a home learning club that pupils can attend during lunchtimes. Pupils also have access to the ICT suite during lunchtimes and after school as long as a parent is with them.

The role parents and carers in supporting children

- Encourage children to carry out home learning tasks in quiet places away from distractions whenever possible.
- Support them to plan and organise time so tasks are not left until the last minute.
- Make it clear to your child that you value home learning, and support the school by explaining how it can help their learning.
- Become actively involved in home learning activities with your child especially with younger pupils. The Tasks provide an ideal opportunity to do this.
- Encourage children and praise them when they have completed home learning.
- Ensure the quality of work at least matches the quality of work in school. Children should be encouraged to take a pride in their work and handwriting should be neat. You should ensure your child has the equipment they need to complete the homework to the right standard. A good quality pencil or pen. They should not write in felt tips etc.
- Home learning should never be printed from the internet. Encourage children to write it in their own words.
- Of course there will be times when your child does not want to complete the home learning. Pick the right time and persevere because it is important they understand they need to fulfil expectations. Talk to your child's class teacher if it is becoming difficult.
- Be reassured that home learning can be presented in a variety of ways so that all children can access learning: film, photographs etc. if your child struggles with writing. Please ask advice from the class teacher if you are not sure. This is especially important for SEN children who may need to approach tasks differently: writing letters with chalk, making Lego models etc.

The homework policy will be monitored and evaluated to check we are supporting pupil's learning in the best possible way in discussion with parents.

Appendix 1.....letter to parents

Appendix 2.....home learning sheets/ grid examples

Appendix 3.....Sheet for home learning book- explaining aims and quality expected.



Child's name:.....

Date:.....

Dear parent,

We attach great importance to the links that exist between home and school, and it is only by working together that we can ensure the best possible education for your child. One important aspect of this joint effort is home learning.

We are writing to inform you that:

Your child needed to attend the Home learning club as they had not completed the learning at home by the due date.

We understand there may be many reasons for this being the case and so would like to work with you to support your child. If extra support is required then we would be happy to provide this.

If you would like to read our home learning policy then please do have a look on the website under policies.

Please use this slip if you would like to comment or pop in to discuss anything with your child's class teacher.

Many thanks

Claire Martin-O'Donoghue

Parent
comments:.....

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Year 3 Home learning grid -

Castaway	Topic based homework set on a Friday and due in the following Wednesday My Maths is set on a Friday and due in the following Friday.	Parent comment	Teacher Comment
Week 1 & 2 Set: 9/6/17 Due: 21/6/17	On your first night stranded on your desert island you hear some strange noises – what are they? Who could they be? How do you feel? Write a short thought bubble including what is racing through your mind. Remember Spelling, punctuation and grammar. Challenge- can you include a simile or personification? My Maths <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Perimeter (Revision from previous learning) 2. Mixed sums over 100 		
Week 3 & 4 Set: 23/6/17 Due: 5/7/17	Create a poem about an environment on a desert island. The beach, forest, volcano etc... The poem can rhyme but doesn't have to. Can you add a simile, adjectives and adverbs? Be creative with how you present your work – it could be typed with pictures, recorded or performed with your family. You might like to create a short animation to share your poem. There are lots of learning stickers on offer! Challenge- find a poem about another contrasting environment		

	<p>eg. City. What features has the poet used?</p> <p>My Maths</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Subtraction columns 2. Fractions Calculations 		
<p>Week 5 & 6 Set: 7/7/17 Due: 19/7/17</p>	<p>Can you do a survey of the waste your families throw in the bin in a week? Present results in own way e.g. table, graph, report, pictures with captions, list.</p> <p>Challenge- can you write a persuasive passage to stop people throwing waste away?</p> <p>My Maths</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 3 x Tables 		

Year 1 Homework - Term 3 Turrets and Tiaras

Homework tasks			
	Below are some homework tasks that you can choose from to complete over the next 2 week.	Parent comment	Teacher Comment
<p>Term 3/4 Set 24/2/17 Due 15/03/17</p>	<p>My Maths</p> <p>When you log into your child's account you will see a set homework about time. In class we are learning about the months of the year and putting these in the correct order.</p> <p>The log in and password for your child's account is in the front of their homework book.</p> <p>Challenge- try to log in to TTS Rockstar and practice a timetable.</p>		
<p>Term 3/4 Set 24/2/17 Due 15/03/17</p>	<p>World book day</p> <p>World book day this year is going to be on Thursday 2nd March 2017. We want you to take the time to enjoy your own favourite books at home and share these back in school. You could;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -take a photo of you reading the book -make a new front cover -write a book review -paint your favourite part of the book <p>Be as inventive as you like with how you want to</p>		

	share this with the class.		
Term 3/4 Set 24/2/17 Due 15/03/17	<p>Spellings; In the new national curriculum children are expected to be able to spell the days of the week. See the attached word search to complete.</p> <p>Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday.</p> <p>To challenge your child more they could even use these in context; -write a diary -write a story like the hungry caterpillar -use the words in a sentence.</p>		

A home learning guide for pupils and parents

The role parents and carers in supporting children

- § Encourage children to carry out home learning tasks in quiet places away from distractions whenever possible.
- § Support them to plan and organise time so tasks are not left until the last minute.

- § Make it clear to your child that you value home learning, and support the school by explaining how it can help their learning.
- § Become actively involved in home learning activities with your child especially with younger pupils. The Tasks provide an ideal opportunity to do this.
- § Encourage children and praise them when they have completed home learning.
- § Ensure the quality of work at least matches the quality of work in school. Children should be encouraged to take a pride in their work and handwriting should be neat. You should ensure your child has the equipment they need to complete the homework to the right standard. A good quality pencil or pen. They should not write in felt tips etc.

As a guide your child has written a passage below in their best handwriting. This is how their writing should look in this book. It should be just as good as the work they produce at school!

My best handwriting looks like this:

- Home learning should never be printed straight from the internet. Encourage children to write it in their own words. This way they will really engage with it and understand it.
- § Of course there will be times when your child does not want to complete the home learning. Pick the right time and persevere because it is important they understand they need to fulfil expectations. Talk to your child's class teacher if it is becoming difficult.
- § Be reassured that home learning can be presented in a variety of ways so that all children can access learning: film, photographs etc. if your child struggles with writing. Please ask advice from the class teacher if you are not sure about the best way to approach this.

Teachers will always try to introduce an element of choice and challenge to help and will never be critical if a child has taken an individual approach to achieving the outcome. This is especially important for SEN children who may need to approach tasks differently: writing letters with chalk, making Lego models etc.

For more information please look at the home learning policy on the school website.