

Home learning Policy

July 2025

Our Home Learning focuses on the essentials- everything that research proves makes a difference to a child's academic, social and emotional progress.

We believe that the 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 with a focus on reading and the fundamental skills in mathematics. 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 should have a clear focus on essential reading, spelling & mathematics. 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 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.

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!

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 the culture of children wanting to write in their journal through choice and not under duress.
- Children will have access to their journals so that when the urge to write hits them they can both in school and at home. They can bring it home when they want to not just when a teacher directs this.
- There is a reward system for frequent writers. Prizes to vary (workshops with different authors, opportunities to publish writing etc).
 - Children will bring these home at various times but generally in holidays

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 include reading.

A guide		
Year group	time	Home learning
Reception	15-30 minutes daily independent and shared reading	Reading daily
Year 1 Year 2	20-30 minutes daily independent and shared reading Maths minimum 15 minutes weekly	Doodle maths Writing journals- as often as your child wants!
Year 3 Year 4	30-40 minutes daily independent and shared reading Maths minimum 20 minutes weekly	Times Table Rock Star Doodle maths Doodle Spell Writing journals- as often as your child wants!
Year 5 Year 6	30-40 minutes daily independent and shared reading Revision	Times Table Rock Star Doodle maths Doodle Spell Writing journals- as often as your child wants!

	Maths minimum 30 minutes weekly	Revision may increase in the lead up to testing.
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TT Rockstar, Doodle Maths and Doodle Spell – Personalised programmes which support and challenge your child's learning and address gaps.

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 reading and mathematics learning to support progression in learning;
- Offer consistent practice across the school in setting and managing home learning
- 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 reading and mathematics learning;
- 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.

The role parents and carers in supporting children

- Make it clear to your child that you value home reading, mathematics and optional learning, and support the school by explaining how it can help their learning.
- Become actively involved in home reading and mathematics learning activities with your child especially with younger pupils. Optional tasks provide an ideal opportunity to do this.
- 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.
- Encourage children and praise them when they have completed home reading and mathematics learning.
- Of course there will be times when your child does not want to complete the home reading and mathematics learning. Pick the right time and persevere because it is important they understand they need to fulfil expectations. Sharing a book with your child provides parents with an opportunity to have a regular and shared event that both parent and child can look forward to. Furthermore, it provides children with feelings of attention, love, and reassurance which is key for nurturing and wellbeing. Talk to your child's class teacher if it is becoming difficult.

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.



Reading Alert for _____ Alert No. _____

We have noticed your child has no or very little record of home reading recently in their book. Sharing books at home or noticing your child's independent reading is very important and known to have a big impact on their progress. Please do support your child in reading whenever you can and initial their book daily once read.

For every seven times in a row you sign their book they can gain a chance to enter the weekly book raffle to win a book of their choice.

If reading is not initalled in the Home School Journal we will ask your child to spend 5 minutes with in class at breaktime reading.

Class Teacher

Doodlemaths Alert for _____

We have noticed that your child has not been logging into Doodlemaths recently. Regular completion of daily questions has shown a huge impact on children's progress in maths fluency and understanding.

Please support your child in completing their Doodle questions daily and sign their Home School Journals.

In addition, if they access doodle seven times in a row they are entered into a weekly raffle to win a prestigious Doodle wristband.

_____ Class Teacher

