

Gosforth Park First School

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GPFS Homework Policy

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Homework refers to any work or activities which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents/carers. Children benefit greatly from the mutual support of parents and teachers encouraging them to learn at home and at school. One of the aims of our school is for children to develop as independent learners. We believe that homework is one of the ways in which children can acquire the skill of independent learning.

All research evidence shows that that reading for pleasure makes a huge difference to children's educational performance. 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 the world.

Therefore, daily reading at home is the core focus of homework at our school. This can be either independent reading or reading aloud to parents or carers according to their ability.

Reading:

For children in Nursery and Reception, homework will mainly consist of daily reading with parents (about 10 minutes).

Children in KS1 are expected to read aloud to an adult every day at home.

Children in KS2 are expected to read at home on a daily basis, whether this is a school reading book, library book or book from home. As children become more independent they will read longer novels and library books and the focus will shift from learning to read, to reading to learn. Once children can read accurately in terms of word recognition, greater emphasis should be placed upon fluency and comprehension/inference skills.

Additional Homework Y1 – Y4

All homework is to be completed in the homework book.

In addition to regular reading children will take home homework tasks in maths and spelling.

Maths Homework:

Children will be set weekly Maths activities which will either be set online (such as Mathletics) or paper based. Homework will be set on a Friday to be completed by the following Friday. Children will be given a list of Big Maths facts to be learned each term. Please practise these at home regularly so your child can recall them quickly and confidently.

If you would like to complete additional homework activities with your child, you will find a range of Maths games and activities on Purple Mash and Mathletics. Details of logins will be sent home in the first half of the Autumn Term. The aim of Maths homework is to reinforce and consolidate Maths skills taught in class and to provide further opportunities for children to become fluent, reason and problem solve in Maths.

If you do not understand the methods that the children use, particularly in mathematics, please refer to



the calculation policy on the website or speak to the class teacher. Should you require any additional resources please speak to the class teacher.

Topic Homework:

Each half term children will be given a topic task to complete. This should result in independent research work done at home by the children, generally about the topic they are studying, (some children may need support).

Spellings:

Each year group will be given weekly spellings. All spellings link to the National Curriculum year group expectations.

- In KS1, spellings are linked to the phonics teaching focus of that week.
- In KS2, spellings are linked to the grammar teaching focus of that week.

Additionally, Topic related vocabulary and high frequency / tricky words will also be included in spelling lists.

Guidance for pupils:

We ask the children to:

- listen carefully to the instructions they are given
- organise themselves in order to make sure that homework is completed on time
- keep their homework books tidy and neat

Guidance for Parents:

Parents have a vital role to play in their child's education and homework is an important part of this process. We ask parents to:

- encourage their child to complete their homework.
- help their child as they feel necessary
- allow their child a quiet space to work in e.g. away from the television, electronic devices etc. or younger siblings

Should your child be unable to complete their homework for any reason, please send in a note or speak to the class teacher who will be happy to discuss this with you and your child.

Role of teachers:

- Our teaching staff will:
- ensure homework is clearly explained to children and helpful guides given to parents as appropriate
- ensure that homework is set and stamped
- carry out any necessary discussions with parents and children
- monitor the child's approach to homework, completion and support by parents



- ensure that all tasks set are appropriate for the learning focus of the child.

This policy will be reviewed annually based on feedback from parents, pupils and staff.

Policy devised by the School staff and in conjunction with the Governing Body