

Gosforth Park First School

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GPFS Homework Policy

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Version Control

Document	Version	Date	Author	Change Description
GP-PO-017	04	07/10/2024	Governing Body	Added information relating to Year 2 Bridging to Spelling (Little Wandle)
GP-PO-017	04	09/10/2023	Governing Body	Removed Oxford Reading Buddy, added Little Wandle Removed Mathematics and added Numbots
GP-PO-017	03	10/10/2022	Governing Body	Removed Purple Mash
GP-PO-017	03	11/10/2021	Governing Body	Reviewed with changes from SLT
GP-PO-017	03	16/11/2020	Governing Body	Reviewed with changes from SLT
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GP-PO-017	01	20/11/2017	Governing Body	Document release in QMS format



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Rationale:

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 each child’s ability.

Reading:

Children in Nursery will be expected to enjoy a story with their parents/carers every day at home. Every week in Reception and Year 1, children take home a reading book linked to their Little Wandle phonics level and a “read for pleasure” book. Parents are expected to listen to their child read this phonics book at least once and record a note in their reading diary. Children also bring home a weekly home learning sheet linked to the Little Wandle phonics teaching.

Children in Years 2 - 4 take home a school book banded reading book and parents are expected to encourage their child to read at home on a daily basis. Children who need additional phonics support access Little Wandle Rapid Catch-up scheme books.

Children from Nursery to Y4 select a reading for pleasure book from the library to enjoy at home every week.

Additional Homework Y1-Y4:

English/Maths Homework:

Children in KS1 are given a homework menu with links to a range of activities to support their learning focus for that half term in English, Maths and Science. Completed homework can be uploaded to Seesaw and have a feedback comment by teachers. In addition to this, children in KS1 have access to Numbots and Times Table Rock Stars.

Children in KS2 will be set a weekly English or Maths activity via Seesaw. These activities will be posted on a Friday to be completed by the following Friday. Teachers will write a feedback comment on each returned piece of homework if has been completed within the allotted time frame.



Children in KS1 and KS2 have access to:

- Times Table Rock Stars (*sequenced programme of daily times table practice*)
- Numbots (*maths fluency practise*)

English and Maths homework is used to consolidate learning which has occurred within the classroom. *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:

Children in KS1 and KS2 will be assigned a research project to complete during the holidays which relates to the upcoming topic for their key stage. The purpose of this research project is for children to bring a wealth of prior knowledge and enthusiasm to the classroom. All children will be given the opportunity to present their research project to their peers. Prior to the holiday, teachers will provide a selection of ideas for research projects but creative freedom will be given to each child to decide how they would like to represent their ideas (e.g. through story, painting, model, PowerPoint presentation, etc.) No child will be penalised if they are unable to complete a research project.

Spellings:

In Year 2, spellings are taken from Bridge to Spelling (Little Wandle). In Years 3 and 4, spellings are sent out half termly and consist of 10 age-appropriate spellings to be learnt each week (Twinkl scheme of work). All spellings link to the National Curriculum year group expectations. Children in Year 3 and 4 have a weekly lesson linked to the spelling rule being taught that week. Parents are asked to ensure that children understand the meaning of the word in a sentence. In the final week of each half term, a spelling diagnostic is used to recap all the spelling rules of that half term. Parents are encouraged to revisit spellings from previous weeks to consolidate the learning.

Guidance for pupils:

We ask the children to:

- read carefully the instructions they are given
- organise themselves in order to make sure that homework is completed on time

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



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- Should a child be unable to complete their homework for any reason, parents/carers should inform their child's class teacher via an email to the office.

Role of teachers:

Our teaching staff will:

- ensure homework is clearly explained and helpful guides given to parents as appropriate
- ensure that homework is acknowledged via Seesaw and appropriate feedback is given
- monitor the child's approach to homework, completion and support by parents
- ensure that all tasks set are appropriate to the ability and individual needs of the child.

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