



ASHBOURNE HILLTOP Primary & Nursery School

HOMWORK POLICY

Most of the homework at Hilltop is on a voluntary basis in order for parents to have the opportunity to work with their children and support their learning. We believe that an informal, encouraging approach is appropriate for Nursery and KS1 children with more rigour for KS2. All homework should be fun and no-one should feel under too much pressure at this age. The time spent should be quality time.

The purposes of homework

- To develop an effective partnership between the school and parents in pursuing the aims of the school.
- To consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding, particularly in literacy and numeracy.
- To explore resources at home
- To extend school learning
- To encourage children as they get older to develop the confidence and self discipline needed to study on their own.
- To prepare them for the homework requirements of Secondary Schools.

Foundation stage

Foundation stage 1(Nursery)

Children can take a library book home daily if they choose. Children are also asked to bring items from home related to the topic.

Foundation stage 2 (Reception)

Parents and carers are encouraged to share books together. Pupils have the opportunity to choose a book from the library and also take their reading scheme book home daily. There are story sacks with books and related activities for parents to do with their child until they are at a suitable level to go onto the school reading scheme. Sounds are sent home on a regular basis and also some high frequency words to practice .Math games and high frequency word games are kept in the classroom for parents and children to take home on a voluntary basis.

Activities are sent home relating to current themes in school usually termly as Learning Logs.

Key stage 1

Homework builds on the established practices outlined above, for example, reading record books are provided to encourage discussion with parents. A whole school reading challenge encourages children to participate in regular reading at home. Spellings are sent home weekly. There are links on the school website for parents and children to explore together and additional work can always be requested by individuals. Children have to learn specific times tables as part of their homework.

Other maths homework is set where appropriate to top-up the work that is being done in class and may mean the children completing an investigation or using resources from home. Tasks will not necessarily be of a formal pencil and paper style.

Key stage 2

During the time in key stage 2 the children will have a variety of homework linking in with the learning in class. At the beginning of each new half-termly topic each child will be able to select a piece of homework from a list provided. This will be handed out at the beginning of each half-term and will need to be returned by the date specified. In addition, all children will be required to learn weekly spellings and weekly time tables. These will be tested on a weekly basis (normally on Fridays). Every child is expected to read on a daily basis, reading a book from the Accelerated Reading Scheme (or an appropriate reading scheme book). In years 5 and 6 children will also be given either a literacy or maths homework each week covering areas that are taught in class (this should take no more than 20 minutes).

Special Circumstances

If a parent feels that particular circumstances warrant additional homework this should be discussed with the class teacher. If the class teacher feels additional work would be appropriate then this will be discussed and set.

Holidays

We encourage children to keep a diary in the holidays which for FS2 may be scribed for the child if necessary but in KS1 the children should be encouraged to write and illustrate their own diary. This is then brought back to school and shared with the rest of the class

Monitoring

The class teacher monitors work in the reading record books on a regular basis.

Celebration

Considerable emphasis is placed upon acknowledging and praising good work. Parents are encouraged to praise children as much as possible.

Outcomes

The governors and staff at Hilltop believe that the schools homework policy and practice contribute to the all round progress of the pupils. Homework is incorporated into our home school agreement.