



Home Learning Policy and Guidelines

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Introduction

At St James C of E Academy, we value greatly the partnership between parents and the school. We want children to enjoy learning and believe that learning tasks undertaken at home should enhance and reinforce the school curriculum, not simply replicate it. We encourage all parents to support their child's development by:

- Playing games that have rules to be followed, require taking turns, involve speaking and listening to each other and allow the opportunity to develop fair play.
- Actively supporting learning within school topics through visits to places of interest when possible and through research using books and the internet.
- Doing activities for a set amount of time to develop and extend concentration.
- Making homework a pleasant addition to what is done at school.

Home learning tasks are designed to involve parents so that families can enjoy learning together and parents can become increasingly familiar with the curriculum and the methods taught in school.

Additional benefits of completing tasks at home are that:

1. Children recognise the working relationship between their parents and teachers.
2. Children have the opportunity to develop independence and to take responsibility for their own learning.
3. Children begin to recognise the importance of organising and managing time appropriately when working to a deadline.

By working together, we can support all aspects of the children's development and learning, so that everyone can make progress. All children from Reception to Year 6 will be given home learning tasks during term time.

We encourage the children to learn to organise their time sensibly so that they are able to pursue their leisure interests such as swimming, Beavers, Rainbows, Cubs, Brownies, Piano lessons etc. They also need time to relax and play. The tasks and timings will therefore vary for each year group.

Remote Learning

As a school we offer some remote home learning using recognised websites and resources. Children may have an individual login for this and we will follow the Online Safety Policy at all times. If families are unable to access home learning remotely for any reason they should contact the school to see what support we can provide.

Roles and Responsibilities

Senior Leadership Team

- Periodically check a selection of home learning books.

Teachers

- Set appropriate, planned and varied tasks suited to the children's learning needs and abilities.
- Publicise to parents, at the beginning of the school year, on which day of the week home learning tasks will usually be set and when they should be completed by.
- Publicise information about the topics to be covered in foundation subjects in the termly curriculum letter to parents.
- Follow up home learning tasks through a planned class discussion or peer to peer presentation, through marking, observation or tests.
- Reward children who complete home learning tasks to a good standard.
- Notify parents if children repeatedly fail to complete home learning tasks.

Parents

- Provide a suitable environment in which the homework can be completed.
- Share and assist with home learning tasks, encouraging and motivating the children to do their best.
- Support children in establishing a routine for completing tasks.
- Check tasks are completed to an acceptable standard.
- Contact the class teacher directly to seek advice if the child repeatedly experiences difficulty with completing tasks.
- Record reading done at home in the child's reading diary at least 3 times a week. Children in KS2 may record their own, but parents will sign weekly to confirm this.

Pupils

- Children in Years 1-6 will record any activities/tasks to be undertaken in their designated home learning book, following the instructions given by the class teacher – this may be a sheet stuck into the book. Written activities will normally be completed in this book unless requested otherwise by the teacher.
- Take the home learning book home and talk about the tasks/activities with parents.
- Do their best to complete tasks to an acceptable standard within the given timeframe.
- Show the completed task to their parents.
- Talk to the teacher if they really don't understand what to do to complete the task.
- Record reading done at home in their Reading Diary (KS2)

Those children who undertake extra musical activities such as violin, keyboard and guitar are also expected to practise regularly in their own time as part of their commitment.

EYFS (Reception) and Key Stage One

Children in EYFS are expected to share books at home on a regular basis. They have a Reading Diary in which teachers record reading book titles. Children read these books at home and parents record following every read of the book at home. There is room for parents to share comments and give feedback, which is very valuable. New skills are continually being learned and practised during the English session, Reading sessions and Phonics sessions. We rely on parents to provide regular opportunities for their child to practise what they have learnt in school when they share books at home. Parental support and encouragement is vital whilst your child is learning to read.

It is expected that all children in Reception will read a minimum of 3 times a week at home with parents/carers.

The information below gives suggested activities which you can share with your child at any time as well as more specific activities which may be set by the teacher.

Foundation Stage - Reception Class

- Sing rhymes and songs
- Share fiction, non-fiction and poetry books
- Practise phonic sounds and letter formation
- Learn high frequency words through games and early reading books
- Complete additional practical activities, periodically set by the teacher
- Play board games which involve counting on
- The children may be asked, on occasion, to bring in items from home that are related to work they are doing in school.

Key Stage One

A home learning book will be provided for spelling lists and to record other tasks/activities to be undertaken.

Year 1

- We expect all children to read at home a minimum of 3 times a week and for parents to complete a reading diary entry for each reading session.
- Weekly spelling will be sent home for children to learn which will be tested on a set day each week – this day will be shared by the class teacher.
- Number facts may also be sent home for children to learn.

The information below gives suggested activities which you can share with your child at any time as well as more specific activities which may be set by the teacher.

- Read a wide variety of books with your child, choosing from fiction, non-fiction and poetry books. It is important to practise your child's reading scheme book, but this is not the only book they should be reading. Please share comments about difficulties or successes in the reading diary.
- Play board games which involve counting on, word games or phonic games such as 'I Spy'.
- Carry out occasional research linked to learning topic.
- Complete short practical activities set by the class teacher to re-enforce learning at school.
- During the summer term one or two short pieces of written homework and phonics activities may be set.

Year 2

- We expect all children to read at home a minimum of 3 times a week and for parents to complete a reading diary entry for each reading session.
- Weekly spelling will be sent home for children to learn which will be tested on a set day each week – this day will be shared by the class teacher.
- Number facts may also be sent home for children to learn and in the summer term children will be introduced to Times Tables Rockstars.

The information below gives suggested activities which you can share with your child at any time as well as more specific activities which may be set by the teacher.

- Read a wide variety of books with your child, choosing from fiction, non-fiction and poetry books. It is important to practise your child's reading scheme book, but this is not the only book they should be reading. Please share comments about difficulties or successes in the reading diary.
- Play board games which involve counting on, word games or phonic games such as 'I Spy'.

- Carry out occasional research linked to learning topic.
- Complete short practical activities set by the class teacher to re-enforce learning at school.
- Occasional short pieces of written homework and phonics activities may be set throughout the year.

Key Stage Two

Home Learning Book

Homework tasks are recorded by the children in a Home Learning book. This indicates when the work was set, what has to be done and by when (the deadline). Parents should check these books regularly and help their children to get into a good routine for getting work completed on time and to a suitable standard.

Reading Diary

The children have a Reading Diary so that reading tasks can be recorded and parents can also record whenever their children read and note down the time spent and the book titles. This gives the teachers valuable information and feedback about the range of literature the children are experiencing. Please encourage your child to read a range of books. The class library, school library and Southam library provide plenty of choice. Key Stage 2 children will take home a book which is age appropriate for them and carefully matched to their individual reading ability. Whole class reading sessions give children the opportunity to learn and practise new, more advanced skills and then these can be practised with parents' support at home. We will support and advise them about which books they choose to ensure range and enjoyment. The development of reading and writing skills in children benefits hugely from listening to stories. You can help by continuing to read to your KS2 child.

Year 3

- We expect all children to read at home a minimum of 3 times a week and for parents to complete a reading diary entry for each reading session or to sign the entries their child has recorded each week.
- Spelling lists to be learned weekly. Repetition is the key to long term memory, so learn and practice them every day.
- Times tables are practised using Times Tables Rockstars and we expect children to log in to do this at least once a week.
- Written tasks will periodically be set for children to complete.
- Occasionally there will be some topic-based research.
- Work unfinished during lesson time due to lack of focus/application may be sent home to be completed.

Year 4

- We expect all children to read at home a minimum of 3 times a week and for parents to complete a reading diary entry for each reading session or to sign the entries their child has recorded each week.
- Spelling lists to be learned weekly. Repetition is the key to long term memory, so learn and practice them every day.
- Times tables are practised using Times Tables Rockstars and we expect children to log in to do this at least once a week.
- Written tasks will periodically be set for children to complete.
- Occasionally there will be some topic-based research.
- Work unfinished during lesson time due to lack of focus/application may be sent home to be completed.

Year 5

- We expect all children to read at home a minimum of 3 times a week and for parents to complete a reading diary entry for each reading session or to sign the entries their child has recorded each week.
- Spelling lists to be learned weekly. Repetition is the key to long term memory, so learn and practice them every day.
- Times tables are practised using Times Tables Rockstars and we expect children to log in to do this at least once a week.
- Written tasks will periodically be set for children to complete.
- Occasionally there will be some topic-based research.
- Work unfinished during lesson time due to lack of focus/application may be sent home to be completed.

Year 6

- We expect all children to read at home a minimum of 3 times a week and for parents to complete a reading diary entry for each reading session or to sign the entries their child has recorded each week.
- Spelling lists to be learned weekly. Repetition is the key to long term memory, so learn and practice them every day.
- Times tables are practised using Times Tables Rockstars and we expect children to log in to do this at least once a week.
- Written tasks will periodically be set for children to complete, and this will increase in frequency during the year to ensure pupils are fully prepared for their transition to secondary school.
- Occasionally there will be some topic-based research.
- Leading up to end of Key Stage assessment, extra revision style activities may be set.
- Work unfinished during lesson time due to lack of focus/application may be sent home to be completed.