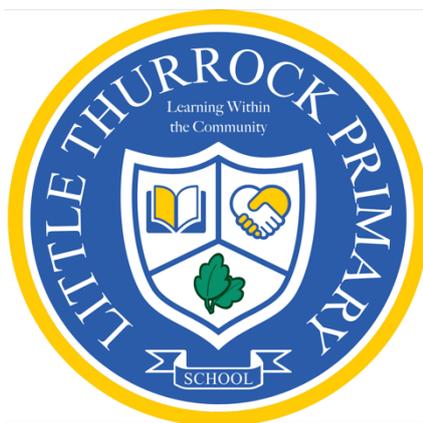


LITTLE THURROCK PRIMARY SCHOOL



Homework Policy

Signed:

Deoise Hanson

Chair of Governors

Signed:

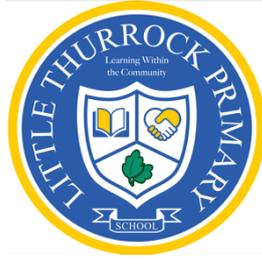
S. Melling

Headteacher

Date: March 2022

Next Review: March 2023

LITTLE THURROCK PRIMARY SCHOOL



Homework Policy

INTRODUCTION

This is the school's policy for the provision of homework to pupils. There is no statutory requirement for schools to set homework. However, at Little Thurrock Primary School we recognise the vital role parents play in the education of their children. We strongly believe in the value of home-school partnership, of which our homework policy is an important element and this policy has been created in consultation with our parents.

The DfE say:

Homework need not and should not get in the way of other activities that children do after school. We advise parents to talk to their child's class teacher to discuss any concerns they may have about the amount of homework their children receive.

HOMEWORK - A DEFINITION

Homework is defined as any work or activities which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents or carers. At Little Thurrock we see work done at home as a valuable part of school work.

THE PURPOSE OF HOMEWORK

The school regards the purpose of homework as being to:

- develop an effective partnership between the school and parents and other carers in pursuing the aims of the school and the development of their child.
- consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding, particularly in English and Mathematics ;
- extend school learning, for example through additional reading;
- encourage pupils as they get older to develop the confidence and self-discipline needed to study on their own, and to prepare them for the requirements of secondary school.

At Little Thurrock Primary School, teaching staff recognise that pupils who have spent a busy structured day at school need time to relax and unwind at the end of the afternoon.

We are also mindful of the need to encourage children to pursue out-of-school activities, e.g. swimming, ballet, Beavers, Brownies, music lessons etc.

Homework should be used to effectively reinforce and/or extend what is learned in school. We hope that children will feel a sense of personal satisfaction in a task completed well and that their efforts will be recognised and praised both at home and at school. Homework tasks should be undertaken to the best of their ability. Pupils who complete all homework tasks will receive Class Dojo points.

We hope parents and carers will be willing and able to give their active support to ensure that work done at home is completed conscientiously and in the best possible conditions.

Children attending peripatetic music lessons are also expected to practise in their own time.

CURRENT PRACTICE

At the beginning of the academic year, each year group will be informed of what is expected of them with regard to homework. The homework timetable will be displayed on the class door for parents to see. Parents will be issued with a topic letter each half term to inform them about the main topics and units of work being covered and explain homework expectations. Weekly updates will also be shared with parents via Class Dojo.

THE NATURE OF HOMEWORK

The nature of homework will change as children get older. For children in the EYFS and Key Stage 1, developing a partnership with parents and carers, and involving them actively in children's learning is a key objective. As children get older, they may need less adult support in completing activities.

HOMEWORK EXPECTATIONS

At the start of each topic, children receive creative homework which includes 5 tasks for them to work on with their parents at home throughout the term. This is sent out at the end of the first week of term.

EYFS

Children in Reception from autumn term should have:

- Phonics (recapping sounds) weekly
- Reading daily

KS1 and KS2

Children in KS1 and KS2 should have:

- Reading daily (adult to comment/log each time)
- Spelling rules/key words to learn each week
- English home work
- Maths home work
- Access to TT Rockstars (Year 2+) for children to practice their times tables

Also, children in key year groups will be provided with additional homework to prepare the children for national tests e.g. Year 1 phonics, Year 2 and Year 6.

Home work will be shared via Google Classroom on a Friday and should be completed by the following Friday.

THE TIME TO BE SPENT ON HOMEWORK

The Government no longer provide a recommended time allocation and we do not specify amounts of time that must be spent on a task, preferring individual children and families to set their own routines. Individual teachers are happy to give advice.

Homework will not, in general, be used to finish off work started in class.

The school believes that a regular pattern is important and it will endeavour to establish a familiar routine of when tables and spellings are set and when they are tested (if they are to be). This information will be made clear to parents by the class teacher.

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS + DISABILITIES (SEND)

Setting the right type and amount of homework for children with special educational needs will need careful consideration by the class teacher and co-ordination with both the SENCO and parents. The

objectives of homework outlined in this policy should apply equally to pupils with special educational needs. Whilst children with SEND may benefit from special tasks separate from the homework set for other children in the class, it is important that they should do as much in common with other children as possible. Homework tasks for children with SEN should:

- have a very clear focus and time-guideline;
- give plenty of opportunities for pupils to succeed;

MORE ABLE CHILDREN

Adaptations to homework will be provided for children who have strengths in specific areas e.g. by book level.

THE ROLE OF THE SCHOOL, TEACHERS, PARENTS AND CARERS IN SUPPORTING PUPILS WITH HOMEWORK ACTIVITIES

Role of the school

- . monitor the effectiveness of the homework policy each year
- . support parents with the newer methods of teaching in English and Mathematics by offering parent meetings to put into context the development of English and Mathematics skills from Reception through to Year Six

Role of the class teacher

- . inform pupils and parents of homework timetables through discussion in class, at parents' evening and through termly/half termly Curriculum newsletters
- . match homework, as far as possible, to the ability of the children

Role of the parents/carers

The school recognises that parents and carers have a key role to play in supporting pupils' homework. The nature of this role will change as children get older. For much of their homework, particularly with younger children, parents and carers will be encouraged to become actively involved in joint homework activities.

To avoid 'battles' over homework we recommend:

- that children should be allowed to work at an appropriate pace;
- acknowledgement should be given to their own interests;
- the task is undertaken at an appropriate time when the child is best able to concentrate;
- your child may need lots of encouragement, praise and even your company and help for certain tasks;
- that work at home is perceived as a shared activity;
- work at home should be planned carefully around other interests to avoid clashes;
- it should not be used as a threat or punishment.

Your HELP, ENCOURAGEMENT and PRAISE is the key to success.

We ask you to provide a reasonably peaceful, suitable place in which pupils can do their homework – alone, or more often for younger children, together with an adult.

We do not envisage a primary school child spending time in isolation with work he or she may find difficult. Give support and help but do not do the work for the children. Please support children in completing tasks set.

Concerns

If any child does not understand a task, parents should encourage them to ask their teacher for further guidance. If you have any concerns about the levels of homework or the content etc., please see your

child's class teacher. Do not let your child get upset about homework; if there is a problem come in and speak to the teacher about it.

Review

The governing body reviews this policy every year. The governors may however review the policy earlier than this, if the government introduces new regulations, or if the governing body receives recommendations on how the policy might be improved.