

North Ealing Primary



"North Ealing works inclusively with our families to maximise the learning potential of all children in our community"

Homework 2016-17

Introduction

Homework is anything children do outside the normal school day that contributes to their learning, in response to guidance from the school. Homework encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents/carers to support the children's learning. For example, parents or carers who spend time reading stories to their children before bedtime are helping with homework.

Rationale for homework

Homework is an important part of a child's education, and can add much to a child's development.

At North Ealing we see homework as an important example of cooperation between teachers and parents/carers. One of the aims of our teaching is for children to develop as independent learners, and we believe that doing homework is one of the main ways in which children can acquire the skill of independent learning.

Homework plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment. However, we also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development. While homework is important, it should not prevent children from taking part in the activities of various out-of-school clubs and of other organisations that play an important part in the lives of our pupils. We are well aware that children spend more time at home than at school, and we believe that they develop their interests and skills to the full only when parents/carers encourage them to make maximum use of the opportunities available outside school.

The aims and objectives of homework are to:

- help pupils develop the skills of an independent learner;
- promote cooperation between home and school in supporting each child's learning;
- enable some aspects of the curriculum to be further explored independently;
- provide educational experiences not possible in school;
- consolidate and reinforce the learning done in school, and to allow children to practise skills taught in lessons
- help children develop good work habits for the future;
- enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development.

Types of homework

Big Talk homework will take place twice a half term. All children throughout EYFS, KS1 & 2 will take home a discussion topic linked to the Big Write for the next week.

EYFS produce a home learning letter to share what has and what will be taught in class. This contains suggested ideas for activities which aim to support the child's learning.

In Key Stage 1 we ask parents to support their child through home learning. This includes reading daily for fifteen/twenty minutes. (Remember this can include sharing books and you reading to your child.) In addition, children will be given both weekly English and Maths or topic based activities. We also encourage parents to help with topic based activities and vocabulary and to discuss their school learning. Spellings and Mental Maths skills are regarded as ongoing daily homework.

Practical activities such as weighing cooking ingredients, handling real money and familiarising children with measures are of great value. Sometimes, homework is for children to talk about a topic at home prior to studying it in school. When we ask children to study a topic, or to research a particular subject, we encourage them to use not only the school library but also the local library, as well as the Internet and DVDs.

At Key Stage 2 we continue to give children the sort of homework activities outlined for Key Stage 1, including the reading activities specified above but we expect them to do more tasks independently. Children will generally have Maths and Literacy based tasks every week; there may also be homework related to Topic or Science. Maths homework is often set as 2 or 3 smaller tasks spread over the week. We also set homework as a means of helping the children to revise for tests, as well as to ensure that prior learning has been understood. Spellings, times tables and daily reading are regarded as ongoing daily homework.

Homework is always acknowledged and, according to the task, is either marked or used in class to support learning. For example, whereas a Maths task would be marked according to the school marking policy a topic research task may be shared in the lesson or used as part of a group activity.

Homework completed well is acknowledged and praised. There may be issues arising from the work, which the teacher will follow up in lesson time.

We recognise that children have individual learning styles, which means that some tasks can be completed in a number of different ways, while others demand a particular approach.

Amount of homework

As they move through the school, we increase the amount of homework that we give the children.

	Weekly homework	Reading daily
Reception		10 minutes
Year 1	20 minutes	15 minutes
Year 2	30 minutes	20 minutes
Year 3	50 minutes	& daily reading
Year 4	1 hour	& daily reading
Year 5	2 hours	& daily reading
Year 6	2 ½ hours	& daily reading

Written homework is not generally set across holidays but children may be asked to research upcoming topics and we do expect all children to continue with their daily reading activities.

How you can help

Parents and carers have a vital role to play in their child's education, and homework is an important part of this process. We ask parents and carers to encourage their child to complete the homework tasks that are set. We invite them to help their children as and when they feel it to be necessary and to provide them with the sort of environment that allows children to do their best. Parents and carers can support their child by providing a good, quiet working space at home, by enabling their child to visit the library regularly, and by discussing the work that their child is doing.

Please let us know if your child experiences any problems or distress with their homework.