



We Love to Learn

Homework Statement

The Staff and Governors at Millfields appreciate the importance of the links between home and school. Our aim is to nurture children who will become lifelong learners; passionate about possibilities, problems to be solved and mysteries yet to be discovered

We are committed to the belief that it is important that children begin to make links between school 'work' and 'work' done at home. Children need to develop a **'love of learning'** in all aspects of their lives. Which is why it is so important that everyone recognises that there must be a firm partnership between parents/guardians and teachers, with all of us focused on the quality of education provided for our children.

From their earliest days children should be both challenged and supported, should meet hurdles and barriers to be overcome, should experience success, frustration and even failure, for this is how they 'grow'. They have to take 'risks' and be willing to accept consequences appropriate to their age and development.

The approach to "homework" varies throughout the school, according to the age of the child. The one aspect that remains constant throughout is the view that homework can only benefit the child with parental support. This does not mean that parents are expected to be able to 'do' the homework – or even to understand some of it, as much of it will be dependent on learning in class.

What we do ask is that you place great value on the importance of homework and make sure that time and space is made available to your child to enable them to complete the tasks.

When staff, parents and pupils treat it seriously, homework has the potential to raise standards, extend coverage of the National Curriculum, allow more effective use of lesson times and improve pupils' study skills and attitudes to learning. It can reinforce work covered in class and can be used to practise or consolidate basic skills and knowledge (such as multiplication tables, reading, spelling, punctuation and grammar).

For older pupils, it should encourage them to develop a sense of perseverance and initiative, and make them more responsible for their own learning.

The Aims of our Homework Programme	
To ensure a consistent approach across the school	To provide opportunities for parents, pupils and the school to work in partnership
To ensure progression towards independence and individual responsibility	To encourage pupils to develop the confidence and self-discipline required for individual study
To extend and support learning through reinforcement and revision	To begin to prepare pupils for the demands of secondary school

Marking and Feedback

We will always aim to give feedback to pupils on homework as quickly as possible. This will not always be a written individual comment, but where it is not, teachers will initial the work. Some work will be discussed in class or in small groups, possibly with children reviewing their own work under the teacher's supervision. Other work will be reviewed through tests, e.g. spellings and tables.

In line with the school's Marking Policy, teachers will not always correct all spelling, punctuation and grammar errors. A child's common errors or current learning priorities may be highlighted or the teacher may focus on ideas and content for some tasks.

Parents who carry out activities with their children may have valuable feedback for teachers on how well their children did the activities and the amount of support the child needed for the activity. Parents are invited to write a note to the teacher or to see them in the playground at the end of school.

The Role of Parents and Carers in Supporting Homework

Parents should actively support children with their homework if they are experiencing difficulties in remembering a skill, reading and understanding instructions or developing a strategy for completing a task. Written work should always reflect the child's understanding and achievement. Parents are asked to annotate the work to say how they have given support, if that has proved necessary. If difficulties are encountered, please bring these to the attention of the teacher so that the child can be given support at school. We want homework to support children's success without creating anxiety and friction at home

Our Homework Programme		
Year	What Millfields Offers:	How you can support us:
Nursery	Weekly home reading with a free choice of reading materials	Sharing books brought home by your child. Help children understand the feelings of others by labelling emotions such as sadness, happiness, feeling cross, lonely, scared or worried. Make it clear that all feelings are understandable and acceptable, including feeling angry, but that not all behaviours are. Sing Nursery and Number Rhymes like Baba black sheep or 10 green bottles. Discuss/investigate the topics being taught (outlined in the half termly home-school booklet)
Reception	Home reading each week with texts chosen by the school High frequency words to learn	Sharing books brought home with your child Play memory games like I went to market/I packed in my suitcase to encourage recall of words you see frequently Sound words out as often as you can Encourage your child to count the things they see and talk about and use numbers beyond ten Help your child to understand that five fingers on each hand make a total of ten fingers altogether, or that two rows of three eggs in the box make six eggs altogether Discuss/investigate the topics being taught (outlined in the half termly home-school booklet)
Year 1	Home reading each week with texts chosen by the school High frequency words to learn Spelling words to learn weekly Homework Club Assignments linked to topic work	Sharing books brought home with your child Practise focus spelling words with your child Practise of number bonds to 10 Discuss/investigate the topics being taught (outlined in the home-school booklet)
Year 2	Home reading each week with texts chosen by the school High frequency and Spelling words to learn weekly Termly Learn-it's and times tables Assignments linked to topic work SPaG and Maths work linked to curriculum work 30 minutes of Maths Whizz (commencing summer term) Ocean Maths game/follow on ideas	Sharing books brought home with your child Practise focus spelling words with your child Times tables practise Practise of number bonds to 20/Maths Learn Its Discussing the topics being taught (outlined in the home-school booklet) Support your child in SPaG and maths homework activities when set Play the Ocean Maths game with your child Attend the termly Ocean Maths parent workshop with your child Keep the Ocean Maths resource pack safe and make sure your child can access it
Year 3	Home reading each week with texts chosen by the school Spelling words to learn weekly Homework Club Assignments linked to topic work 30 minutes of Maths Whizz	Sharing books brought home with your child Times tables practise Practise of number bonds to 100 Discussing the topics being taught (outlined in the home-school booklet)
Year 4	Home reading each week with texts chosen by the school Spelling words to learn Homework Club Assignments linked to topic work 30 minutes of Maths Whizz	Sharing books brought home with your child Practise focus spelling words Times tables practise Practise of number bonds to 100 Discussing the topics being taught (outlined in the home-school booklet)
Year 5	Home reading each week Spelling words to learn Homework Club Writing tasks and finishing off work, where appropriate Assignments linked to topic work 30 minutes of Maths Whizz	Sharing books brought home with your child Practise focus spelling words with your child Times tables practise including division facts Discussing the topics being taught (outlined in the home-school booklet)
Year 6	Home reading each week Spelling words to learn Booster Classes for some children Homework Club Writing tasks and finishing off work, where appropriate Assignments linked to topic work 30 minutes of Maths Whizz	Sharing books brought home with your child Practise focus spelling words with your child Times tables practise including division facts Discussing the topics being taught (outlined in the home-school booklet)

Homework Clubs at Millfields

Our homework clubs run weekly and are open to pupils from year 1 to year 6. The purpose of the clubs is to support pupils in their Literacy and Maths work and to extend work that has been done in class. They are run by Millfields teachers and planning for the sessions is done in collaboration with Age Phase Leaders.

Curriculum Evening

We hold an annual curriculum evening where you will have the opportunity to speak to all of our subject leaders, to discuss what and how your child learns in a particular area as well as take part in an activity linked to the subject with your child

Open Days

We run whole school Open Days each year where parents and carers come and see the school in action. There are opportunities to take part in model lessons where our Literacy and Maths specialists demonstrate how to support your child at home.

Home School Booklets

Booklets are handed out at the beginning of each term with information regarding to your child's upcoming topic and with information about their project for the term. Projects will be shared in class; pupils will discuss the work brought in from home. Ideas of how to support learning linked to this topic are also provided.

Further Support for Parents and Carers

For those who would like further support in helping your child at home we offer a variety of Family Learning classes throughout the academic year

TOP TIPS FOR PARENTS

- Keep a designated homework area at home
- Turn the TV off at homework time to avoid distractions
- Help keep a routine for your child when it comes to homework
- Praise and encourage your child to help boost their confidence
- Refrain from completing your child's homework for them
- Allow yourself enough time to help your child with their homework
- Use the library
- Use after-school homework clubs
- Encourage your child by offering a small reward if they complete their homework
- Don't get stressed out by homework - if you are, your child will be too



Source: Parenting support charity, Family Lives

Updated July 2016