

East Bridgford
St Peter's CE Academy



Homework Guidance for parents and staff

governor approved: 27th November 2024

INTRODUCTION

One of St. Peter's guiding principles is encapsulated in our school motto **'Together in Achievement'** and within this the maintaining of a strong partnership between home and school is seen as crucial.

We believe that only when parents and teachers are together in their commitment to their children, valuing each other's role, will the very best learning outcomes be achieved. In this context we at St. Peter's wish to acknowledge the tremendous contribution parents make to their children's education and consequently to the school's success. This is achieved by the time parents give to school work at home, the way they value what their children are doing at school and the positive way they support the school in general.

Research over a number of years has shown that homework can make an important contribution to pupil's progress at school and as OFSTED have put it "....homework is important at all stages in a child's education and that when used properly, it extends the challenge open to the pupil and ensures that teaching time is used to the maximum effect". The evidence shows that pupils in the highest achieving schools spend more time on homework than pupils in others. Like you, we want the best for your child and our commitment to homework is an important part of this. It is not our intention that this should get in the way of other activities children may do after school - such as sport, music and clubs of all kinds. Such opportunities can be themselves of the highest benefit and we believe that homework can co-exist happily with them, significantly helping your child's growth and development.

Therefore, the purpose of homework at St. Peter's is to:

- develop an effective partnership between the school and parents and other carers in pursuing the aims of St. Peter's, as outlined in our Ethos (Circle) Model
- give parents/carers greater insight into the work their children are doing;
- allow parents/carers more opportunity to value their child's work and become involved in it;
- consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding, particularly in literacy and numeracy;
- exploit resources for learning, of all kinds, at home; including online learning *eg Purple Mash*
- extend school learning, for example through additional reading
- encourage pupils to develop the confidence, correct attitudes and self-discipline needed to study independently, important both for their learning at St. Peter's and in the future.

THE TYPE OF HOMEWORK WHICH IS APPROPRIATE FOR DIFFERENT AGES

The main focus for children will be Literacy and Numeracy.

1. Literacy

Regular reading is vital throughout your child's time at St. Peter's. For children at Key Stage 1 homework will largely consist of reading with parents and carers. This may consist of your child reading to you, you reading and discussing books with them or a bit of both. It may be fiction or non-fiction or even signs on the way to school. This can easily take 10-20 minutes per day. As

children become more fluent and their understanding grows they will begin to read on their own and the variety of literature will increase. It is still a good idea to discuss what they are reading together, sometimes ask them to read to you, sometimes share something alternative together, e.g. a poem or newspaper article and on occasions it is good to share with your child what you are reading.

Other literacy related homework will include, of course, spellings, practising correct punctuation and handwriting, leading on to more extended pieces of writing such as book reviews, comprehension, poetry, diaries, stories and non-fiction project work. Children may also be asked to prepare a talk on a favourite subject or hobby as part of their speaking and work.

2. Numeracy

This will include consolidating number tasks (including learning times tables when appropriate – The government test Time Tables recall at Year 4 early in the summer term) and more formal exercises for older children, that they can do at home with parents and carers. If the ways you used to do maths at school seem to conflict with your child's and you are confused, please get in touch with your child's teacher.

3. Other subjects

From time to time science and other subjects may form the focus for homework. This will become more the case as your child moves up the school. Many of these activities may, of course, include a strong element of literacy, e.g. doing a piece of history or R.E. homework.

4. Revision

Revision will also form a crucial part of your child's homework at specific times in their school life, in particular before their Year 6 SATS.

5. Finishing off class based work

This will be given as homework only when the teacher feels it is appropriate to maintain the pace of classroom work and learning for your child or to stop them falling behind.

6. The use of computers

Computers can be of great benefit to children's learning and homework and we encourage their use, especially in areas such as presentation (including art work), graphs, tables and the gathering of information from the internet. At St Peter's we buy into **Purple Mash** for our ICT and computing curriculum. Purple Mash is a cloud based website accessible by every child both at school and at home. Other online work may be set.

7. Extra work done at home by your child of their own initiative is always welcomed.

THE IMPORTANCE OF ATTITUDE AND PRESENTATION

Staff refer to St. Peter's as a 'take care school' because of our belief in the importance of a child's attitude towards their work and the way this is shown in the way they present their writing, artwork, mathematics etc... The maintenance of this standard is very important with homework. This is very much the attitude of *'if a job's worth doing it's worth doing well'*, and we would ask you to help and encourage your child to maintain this standard at home, as we do at school.

In this context, as with other aspects of homework, never be afraid to help your child. Sharing in your child's learning is important and some children will need this type of support well into secondary school.

The provision of materials

If we are to have well-presented and creative work, children must have good materials to work with. If required, your child will be provided with the tools to do the job (normally appropriate paper) just ask.

We would ask you to make sure you have good quality materials of your own available to your child at home, e.g. glue sticks, quality HB pencils, crayons, paper etc...

THE APPROPRIATE AMOUNT OF TIME SPENT ON HOMEWORK

The precise amount of time spent on homework is much less important than the quality of the tasks set and the way they are planned to support learning. Also, the time spent can vary from one child to another. It is important that homework is seen and experienced as a positive learning experience wherever possible for both children and parents/carers.

It is also less important than the quality of the work your child produces and the satisfaction they get from 'a job well done'.

OTHER QUESTIONS ANSWERED

HOW CAN I HELP MY CHILD?

- Find a convenient time that is suitable and takes into account the needs of the whole family to set aside for work time.
- If possible, make a space available for your child to work.
- Be sympathetic to your child's needs.
- Support when needed.
- Be aware of what your child needs to complete the task.
- Be a gentle reminder and praise all efforts, not just completed tasks.
- Encourage organisational skills.
- Try to make the time spent special in some way.
- Try to build in some kind of reward when homework is completed well.
- Remind your child to take in work on the appropriate date.
- If homework is proving too difficult, leave it and contact your child's teacher.

WHAT IF MY CHILD CAN'T COMPLETE HIS/HER HOMEWORK?

There is an expectation that homework set will be completed and to the best of your child's ability. This gives your child the right messages for both now and in the future. However, if for some good reason homework can't be done, please contact your child's teacher explaining the reason, so that alternative arrangements can be made.

Teachers will try to allow an appropriate amount of time for pieces of homework (especially longer, more complicated tasks) to be completed.

WHAT IF I OR MY CHILD GET FRUSTRATED?

The idea of homework is to help your child's progress, not to hinder it by making them anxious. On occasions your child may not be able to do the homework set or gets confused and you may not be able to help them. **DO NOT PROCEED!** Stop and let the teacher sort it out at school. Just contact the school explaining the difficulty. Teachers will try very hard to match homework to your child's needs and ability and to make the homework clear, but they may not always get it right. They welcome your views and opinions, but please remember if you feel they have made a mistake they didn't do it deliberately! On occasions you may also get frustrated because, 'I've tried every way I know and still he/she can't do it!' or because you feel your child doesn't know as much as you'd like! **DO NOT PROCEED OR COMMUNICATE YOUR ANXIETY/FRUSTRATION TO YOUR CHILD.** Contact the teacher and let them sort it out. If you feel dissatisfied with your child's progress because of what you have seen them do at home make an appointment to discuss your feelings with your child's teacher, so that positive action can be taken.

WHAT IF I DON'T WANT TO HELP WITH MY CHILD'S HOMEWORK?

Sometimes you may not feel like getting involved in your child's homework (reading with them, working on a project with them, learning times tables, etc.), which is quite understandable and how we all feel on occasions, but please try to make the effort as it is important to your child that their homework is supported and encouraged by you. Remember, supporting your child does not mean you have to sit with them all the time (especially if it is something like doing sums), it simply means being available and interested when this is appropriate.

N.B. Teachers will not set homework for children who go on holiday in term time. If children are ill they should stay at home to recover and will not be given or sent work to do whilst they are sick at home. The teacher will do their very best to help your child catch up work missed.

Your views are always welcomed, either through your child's teacher, Head teacher or governor.

In conclusion...

Homework should be regular, relevant and realistic. It should match the age and needs of the child and staff should be sensitive to parental attitudes and family circumstances. It is vital that children do their work with care and pride, that parents share in this and that teachers give positive feedback to both children and their parents.

We believe that children who, in this way, acquire good working habits and a positive homework culture will not only benefit now, but also at secondary school and beyond.

Expectations and Progression of Homework at St Peter's



Reception / EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage)

- Reading 3 times per week and recorded in the diary planner
- High frequency words / Spellings (*as appropriate*)



Key Stage 1 (Year 1 & Year 2)

- Reading 3 times per week and recorded in the diary planner
- Spellings (*as appropriate*)
- Maths (*regular number facts*)
- OR ***Take Care** Project



Lower Key Stage 2 (Year 3 & Year 4)

- Reading 3 times per week and recorded in the diary planner
- **SPaG** (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar) revision
- Times Tables
- Maths (*consolidation*) OR Literacy OR Topic OR ***Take Care** Project



Upper Key Stage 2 (Year 5 & Year 6)

- Reading 3 times per week and recorded in the diary planner
- **SPaG** (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar)
- Times Tables
- Maths (*consolidation*) OR Literacy OR Topic OR ***Take Care** Project
- Year 6 SATs weekly revision homework in the lead up to SATs. Feedback during curriculum time.

We aim **not** to give homework out over the holidays.

***Take Care** project –creative model or research poster linked to Topic and/or special theme.

Homework Expectations St Peter's 11/24