



Joy Lane Primary School Homework Policy

September 2017

Homework at Joy Lane Primary School

This policy supports our Whole School Vision Plan that promotes lifelong learning:

We believe that all children should be encouraged to aspire to lead a happy and fulfilling life, whatever form that may take. As a school, learning is our 'core business' and to this end we aim to provide a broad and balanced curriculum, comprising rich and engaging learning opportunities which will inspire children at the start of their lifelong learning journey. We recognise that at times learning can be challenging, but will ultimately be something to reflect upon with pride. We aim to equip everyone in our learning community so that they can adapt to situations as they meet them and move towards the future with confidence.

We believe that homework is an important aspect of your child's education as it enables them to consolidate and extend their classroom learning, as well as helping them to develop their organisational skills, sense of responsibility and independence. Homework also allows parents, carers and the school to work together for the benefit of their child. At Joy Lane Primary School, we have a strong commitment to parental involvement and see homework as one way of developing this partnership.

Why give homework?

- To consolidate and deepen understanding of work completed in school.
- To further stimulate an enthusiasm for learning.
- To enable parents to share in the life of the school.
- To encourage and enhance a positive work ethic, organisational skills and a sense of responsibility.
- To allow opportunities for rehearsal of key skills, such as times tables, doubling facts, addition sums, spellings, handwriting and other key facts.
- To allow children to demonstrate their knowledge and creativity through a range of tasks.
- To prepare children in Upper Key Stage 2 for the demands of secondary school.

Approach

At Joy Lane Primary School, our homework tasks encompass a range of skills and knowledge. In many cases, homework will be based on the English and Maths National Curriculum; however, year group homework wheels and projects also give children the opportunity to explore other subjects and allow them to make choices about how they carry out the task. At times, the school will set fun and inspiring tasks, such as Eco Challenges, which are a voluntary addition to our usual homework schedule.

Homework will:

- Be interesting and relevant to the learning taking place in the classroom
- Increase as children get older
- Be explained clearly before being handed out
- Encourage parents to support their children's class work
- Be differentiated, when appropriate, to the needs of individuals
- Be marked by the class teacher or TA (if handed in on time) in line with the school's Feedback and Response Policy
- Be provided on a consistent basis, with sufficient time allowed for the completion of the task
- Allow children to express themselves in a range of styles (handwritten, 3D, online, typed, etc)

Expectations

Currently, there are no government guidelines specifying requirements for homework. At Joy Lane Primary School, teachers will aim to set fun, challenging and age-appropriate tasks in accordance with the following school guidelines:

Reception



Reading: Daily reading (reading scheme books, sharing library books or key phonic words) is recorded in a reading record.

Other: Homework will cover one 'specific' area per week: Expressive Arts and Design, Understanding the World, Mathematics and Literacy. These will be presented in a homework wheel, allowing the children the opportunity to choose and follow their interests for that week.

Years 1 and 2



Reading: Daily reading is recorded in a reading record.

Spelling: Children in Year 2 learn Rainbow Spellings (approximately two cards per week) and are tested in school in order to move up to the next set or colour. Children in Year 1 will begin to access the spelling activities in Term 2 (approximately one card per week).

Maths: A MyMaths task that supports the learning in class is set online (www.mymaths.co.uk). Children in Year 1 will begin to access these homework activities in Term 3.

English and Other: The homework wheel will consist of a variety of activities linked to each curriculum area. Children should complete one activity from the wheel each week, which they can record in their homework journal if appropriate.

Homework will be set on Wednesdays and is due in on the following Monday.

Years 3 and 4



Reading: Daily reading is logged in a reading record and signed by parents. Children can receive 'reading miles' for each book that they complete in order to move along the class Reading Road. In addition, children's reading records will be stamped for each time that they read for at least fifteen minutes at home. Fifteen stamps can be exchanged for a "15 minutes extra play time" token.

Spelling: Children learn Rainbow Spellings at their own pace and are tested in school in order to move up to the next set or colour. In addition, children in Year 4 receive weekly spellings (approximately 10) based on a rule learned in class.

Maths: A MyMaths task that supports the learning in class is set online (www.mymaths.co.uk).

English and Other: The homework wheel consists of a variety of activities linked to each curriculum area. Children should complete one activity from the wheel each week, which they can record in their homework journal if appropriate.

Homework will be set on Wednesdays and is due in on the following Monday.

Years 5 and 6



Reading: Daily reading is logged in a reading record and signed by parents. Children can receive ‘reading miles’ for each book that they complete in order to move along the class Reading Road. In addition, children’s reading records will be stamped for each time that they read for at least fifteen minutes at home. Fifteen stamps can be exchanged for a “15 minutes extra play time” token.

Spelling: Children learn Rainbow Spellings at their own pace and are tested in school in order to move up to the next set or colour. In addition, children receive weekly spellings (approximately 10) based on a rule learned in class.

Maths: A MyMaths task that supports the learning in class is set online (www.mymaths.co.uk).

English: Children complete a grammar or punctuation task linked to the learning in class or as revision.

Other: At times, children will be set projects or research tasks that will provide them with the opportunity to deepen their understanding of the subjects taught in class. In addition, in the weeks prior to SAT tests, Year 6 children will be given extra revision work.

Homework will be set on Wednesdays and is due in on the following Monday.

Oysters Specialist Resourced Provision



Oysters SRP provides an optional homework scheme for families who would like to participate, set around a range of skills with the aim of starting conversations, asking questions and prompting social problem-solving in a fun and informal way.

Reading: We strongly recommend, as always, that all children be given the opportunity to read at home, in order to develop the skills they have been learning at school throughout the day. It can feel challenging to start with, but it is well worth the investment of 5 or 10 minutes of time each day, and this will lead to improvements in many areas, not least of all in self-esteem and pride in their achievements and improvements, as well as the enjoyment of time spent together sharing books.

Maths: A MyMaths (www.mymaths.co.uk) task that supports the weekly learning in class is set online. This will be set by the child's Maths teacher and so, due to integration, the day the homework is set and the task itself will be different for each child.

Social Skills (social problem solving, conversational skills (including pragmatics), manners and etiquette, figurative language, and flexible thinking skills): Children are set optional social skills tasks on a Monday night, in the form of a differentiated homework grid containing seven tasks or activities. There is - deliberately - very little recording for children, but parents or carers are asked to sign the sheet at the end of the week to signal that each task or activity has been completed. The tasks should take around 5-10 minutes per day, and are designed to help the children become used to completing a small amount of school work at home.

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed annually by all staff, and changes will be made in order to ensure that it reflects up-to-date practice and maintains its key aim in supporting children's progress and encouraging them to become lifelong learners. Monitoring will also include a dialogue with children and parents about how effective our homework procedures are.