

HOMWORK CHANGES

As a result of this research

- Our Homework policy has been reviewed (this can be found on the school website).
- We have reviewed and agreed homework approaches and routines ensuring consistency across different age phases.
- We have purchased Maths homework books for Key Stage 2 which will be set on a weekly basis, or to reinforce work being covered in class.
- Key Stage 1 Maths packs will be sent home each half term and will include practical games and activities for the children. Tasks will be linked to key skills the children need to secure.
- Spelling guidance and approaches have been reviewed and shared with staff to ensure consistency across key stages.
- Agreed the amount of time different age groups should spend on 'Homework' activities.
- Teachers will ensure a balance of curriculum areas will be covered and there will be opportunities for a range of skills to be applied.

ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS ABOUT HOMEWORK DO NOT HESITATE TO SPEAK TO YOUR CHILDS CLASS TEACHER

MATHS

Key Stage 1 - Children will be given homework packs appropriate to the year group. A different pack will be sent home each half term and will include a variety of tasks; eg. games, practical activities, or number facts to be learnt

Key Stage 2 — Children will receive a Maths workbook. Pages will be allocated each week to reinforce key skills or work covered in class. The requirements of the maths Curriculum also sets out various multiplication facts to be learnt each year and by the end of Y4 all facts (12x12) should be secured. Specific objectives for each year group will be shared as part of Meet the Teacher events/literature.

READING

To build on the reading skills developed in school, children will be expected to read regularly at home, regardless of their age or reading ability. Each year group will have their own routines about home reading and this will also be shared with you during Meet the Teacher events by your child's class teacher.

PHONICS/SPELLING

Children will be working on spelling/phonic activities in school on a daily basis. To support this work, children will be bringing home high frequency and homophone word lists to learn. Again, each year group will have their own routines around learning and assessing children's spelling progress.

HOMEWORK BOOKS

Across the academic year, children should have the opportunity to experience a broad range of homework activities. The purpose of the Homework book is to allow for further opportunities to work on other curriculum areas, such as History, Geography, Science, ART/D&T, RE, PSHE and ICT. This aspect of homework encourages children to be creative and present their learning in a variety of ways including writing, drawing, making models, using ICT, use of montage, and carrying out further research linked to class enquiries.

This homework is a valuable opportunity for parent/child to work together on basic literacy skills and reinforce eg, handwriting, spelling, grammar and punctuation. It should be a fun activity to complete and an opportunity to engage with your child's learning experiences.

UNSWORTH PRIMARY

PARENT INFORMATION

H O M E W O R K

“ Effective homework is associated with greater parental involvement and support.”

Education Endowment Foundation 2016



REVIEW OF HOMEWORK

During 2016/17 academic year, Miss Sinclair and Mrs Ali conducted a whole school review of our existing homework policy and procedure. Parents/Carers and children were consulted about their experiences and opinions in relation to homework.

Homework tasks from across school were scrutinised and information was gathered about the type of homework tasks being sent and the quality of work children were expected to complete.

RESEARCH FINDINGS

PARENTS

74 homework surveys were completed and returned by parents.

- Vast majority of parents are happy with homework as it is
- The majority of parents felt they had a good routine with regards to completing homework.
- Some parents stated they “enjoyed” the time they spend completing homework with their child and considered it their “special time”.
- A small number of parents would like further guidance/instructions on how to help their child and the amount of time that should be spent on completing tasks.
- A small number of parents requested a wider variety of homework tasks to complete so homework is interesting.
- A small number of parents wanted a clearer homework timetable.
- Large percentage of parents would like more Maths activities for child to reinforce basic skills and work from class.
- The majority of parents felt the amount of homework was appropriate for their child
- A small number of parents stated that too much homework was being set and expressed difficulties in completing the work due to either extra-curricular activities, work and family commitments.

CHILDREN

36 children were interviewed, 6 children from each class

- Most children said they enjoy doing homework.
- The majority of children said they like the homework tasks because they enjoyed working with people at home and finding out extra things linked to topics.
- Some children said they would like to do creative tasks – not always writing or research.
- Some children did comment they forget to return homework.
- Older children said they would like maths homework.
- A small number of children said they do not like homework and are frustrated by it and would like less.
- A small number of children found it difficult to complete homework due to being busy and having activities on most days after school and weekend.
- Most children said they liked the opportunity to be creative and present their work in different ways in their Learning Logs.
- Some children said they were frustrated by having to redo their homework by parents and carers if they had made a mistake.
- All children felt that their homework helps them with their school work
- Some children were confident in organizing themselves and completing tasks, others relied on additional support.

E-LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

There are a variety of ways you can support your child at home using online resources:

- **Bug Club** is an online reading scheme where your child receives new e-books regularly, with links to games and other reading activities.
- **ABACUS** is a collection of online maths games to reinforce basic number skills. These will be allocated by your child’s teacher when appropriate or linked with learning in class.
- The **school website** will have links to various e-learning resources and class pages.
- Useful apps/web links will be shared by class teachers linked to enquiries or other curriculum areas.

Access to computers within the school day

Our research identified a small group of children who do not have access to a computer, internet or printing facilities.

As part of our review, staff have agreed to provide opportunity during the week where children can access ICT facilities in order to complete homework.

Further information regarding this will be shared during the “Meet the Teacher “ event.