




Date Agreed by Staff	This Policy has been agreed by staff March 2020
Date Ratified by Governing Body	presented to governors in a draft form March 2020
Version 1	New Policy
Review Date	March 2023 (3 Years)
Signed	

Introduction

Following the parent questionnaires from December 2019, we have considered the views of their responses when formulating this policy. The school is of the opinion that homework is important since it reinforces and extends the teaching and learning that occurs during the day therefore is an important part of a child's education.

Aims

Our aims of providing homework are to:

- informs parents about work going on in class
- ensures a more consistent approach throughout the school
- foster independence and individual responsibility
- provide opportunity to rehearse key skills, such as timestables, doubling facts, additions calculations, spelling, handwriting and other key facts.
- provide opportunities for parents, children and the school to work in partnership
- provides opportunities for children and parents to share learning experiences
- encourage children to develop long term strategies for future needs

Homework at our school

Whilst we support all of the above key principles, Heather Primary is not a school at which homework dominates home and school life. We believe that homework should be enjoyable and manageable for all concerned and that if it becomes a chore/burden/source of conflict it ceases to be a constructive aspect of teaching and learning. We believe that by laying out the homework for the term, families are able to plan when the child needs to do their homework around other family activities. We accept that not every activity will capture children and parents' imagination and hope by providing an element of choice in the homework given there are area activities for everyone.

We do not specify amounts of time that must be spent on a task, preferring individual children and families to set their own routines. Individual teachers are happy to give advice. We hope the children are motivated by positive incentives and by the tasks themselves; children are rewarded for completing homework. Discreet homework registers are kept and if a child consistently fails to complete and return tasks, this is discussed with the child and their parents.

High expectations for neat presentation are in place to ensure that children maintain a similar high standard of work at home as in school. Not all homework will be marked in depth. Teachers allocated set times to mark homework therefore late homework will be acknowledged but may not be marked.

Homework Tasks

Where possible, the homework set will be linked to our Curriculum. In addition to daily reading, weekly spellings, fortnightly maths work, we set termly homework menus for each year group in order to provide a range of engaging activities for the children to choose from to motivate and inspire them.

Alongside the Curriculum homework, pupils *may* be asked to complete a specific Literacy or Maths task to consolidate and reinforce basic skills and understanding in these 'core' subjects.

The tasks are to be completed in homework books and all paper based home work should be no more than two sides of A4.

It is our intention, and good practice, not to send work home that the child cannot already do i.e. parents are not expected to teach new skills. There should be a clear explanation/reminder from the teacher of what is expected.

Each child has a homework book and all tasks are kept in there.

Homework at Heather

- **Foundation Stage**
 - Daily reading and learning key words/letter sounds when appropriate – adults to sign diary each time the child reads;
 - Friday maths challenge at least every fortnight;
 - Half-termly activities/tasks in Homework books.
- **Key Stage 1 (Children in Year 1 and 2)**
 - Reading of books with parents/carers at least 4 times a week – diary must be signed each time by an adult
 - MyMaths on a fortnightly basis
 - Learning of x2, x5, x10 times tables on TT Rockstars/Practicing addition/subtraction facts on Numbots (via TTRockstars)
 - Spellings given and tested weekly
 - Children may be given addition 'top up' practice of phonic sounds/common exception words
 - Curriculum homework – at least 2 a term (handing in dates specified by the teacher/s)
- **Lower Key Stage 2 (Children in Year 3 and 4)**
 - Reading of books with parents/carers at least 4 times a week – diary must be signed each time by an adult
 - MyMaths on a fortnightly basis
 - Consolidating of times tables learnt in KS 1 and the learning of 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 11 times tables on TT Rockstars/ Practicing addition/subtraction facts on Numbots (via TTRockstars) if required
 - Spellings given and tested weekly
 - Children may be given specific numeracy/literacy activity where necessary
 - Curriculum homework – at least 4 a term (handing in dates specified by the teacher)
- **Upper Key Stage 2 (Children in Year 5 and 6)**
 - Reading of books with parents/carers at least 4 times a week – diary must be signed each time by an adult
 - MyMaths on a fortnightly basis
 - Consolidating of all times tables – as all should be known by the end of Year 4
 - Spellings given and tested weekly
 - Children may be given specific numeracy/literacy activity where necessary
 - Curriculum homework – at least 6 a term (handing in dates specified by the teacher)

Expectations

- We expect children to maintain the same standards for presentation of homework as we set in school i.e. to use their best handwriting and a sharp pencil or blue pen, accurate use of full stops and capital letters etc.
- A written set of expectations will be written and placed at the front on homework books to inform parents of the standards we expect from each piece of homework.
- It is the expectation that *all* children will at least attempt to complete homework tasks to the best of their ability.
- Older children may be asked to complete homework at play/lunchtimes.
- Homework **must** be completed by the child.
- Dates for handing homework in are always made explicit by the class teacher.
- It is our policy not to give homework over the holidays and half term breaks. The exception will be where the parent and teacher agree extra work would be beneficial.
- Where children have additional needs, teachers may send specific tasks home to support their learning. Again, this will be discussed with parents.

- If you take holiday during term-time, something we actively discourage, parents may not request work from the teacher. We suggest that parents organise a holiday diary, send postcards etc.

Parents Support – Ways in which you can support your child

- Providing a suitable place in which your child can do their homework, preferably with an adult to discuss, encourage and support **but** not to do it for them
- Making it clear to your child that you value homework and support the school in explaining how it can help learning
- Encouraging your child and praising them when they have completed work set
- Signing and dating your child's completed homework to show that it is a true reflection of their best efforts
- Ensuring work is complete and returned to school on time
- Checking your child spends a suitable amount of time on homework

MyMaths Advice

- Check my maths regularly
- Mymaths is often used to revise and revisit topics therefore your child may be asked to complete tasks they have completed before or even from a lower year group
- Encourage your child to work out any calculations as they have been taught in class – this may require pencil and paper. They may show their working out in their homework book if they wish
- If your child gets a low score, they may be asked to complete the activity again
- Occasionally observe your child whilst completing their activities- especially in Upper Key stage 2 to ensure they are completing them to the best of your ability

Other ways you can support your child's development

- Support them learning how to tie their shoe laces, tell the time, manage their belongings etc.
- Spend time outside gardening, walking identifying plants and animals, pick litter etc.
- Play boardgames: dominoes - great for instant visual counting, monopoly – great for number bonds and counting on, scrabble/bananagrams – great for spelling/word recognition, snakes and ladders – great for number recognition and counting on/back to name, darts are great for addition, subtraction, 2 and 3 times tables are just a few ideas
- Cooking – great for hand eye co-ordination, reading recipes, understanding weights and measures
- Craft activities – cutting, sticking, knitting, sewing – great for sustained concentration and time away from television/electronic devices
- Listen to audio stories in the car

What to do if you have concerns

- If you find the homework inappropriate for your child, if they lack interest, if it becomes a battleground or if you are concerned that homework is given inconsistently please talk with your child's teacher in the first instance. If you still have concerns, please talk with the Headteacher.

Although there is no legal requirement to have a Homework Policy, the guidelines have been drawn up in line with recommendations and after consulting parents, staff and children.