

Greenslade Primary School

Learning at Home.

We believe that:

- Homework is a vital aspect of children's education.
- We all have a shared responsibility to ensure homework is successfully completed (completing homework is a Government expectation and we all have a duty to ensure it is done).
- Completing homework should be a valuable experience for our children which therefore has a positive impact on their achievement.
- Homework should be regular and should reinforce and extend the work done in class.
- Homework should develop a wide range of skills and knowledge.
- Homework should develop the confidence to learn independently.
- Homework should foster a positive attitude to learning.
- Children need to have time at home to relax, play and take part in sporting and creative activities in order to develop into healthy, balanced and rounded young people.

All children are expected to spend some time reading at home every night. Reading is a significant strength of our school and will always be our priority. We send home a wide range of high quality texts and expect that every child spends an age appropriate amount of time reading with someone every night. Developing the skills to read independently has an enormous impact on all areas of learning. More than this, reading with your child is a wonderful experience! The pure enjoyment of sharing a book in a relaxed atmosphere is a magical and memorable time. Homework can take many forms and will tend to focus on Literacy and Numeracy. Examples may include :

- Learning spellings or number facts such as times tables.
- Writing book reviews or newspaper articles.
- Working on mathematical problems.
- Carrying out a simple scientific experiment.
- Researching a famous person such as Florence Nightingale.
- Finding out about a city in another country.
- Activities could include cooking, gardening or finding something out whilst visiting the shops.
- Making a model
- Visiting an art gallery or museum.
- Homework could involve completing an extended project over a number of weeks.

Homework could be presented in a book, on a piece of paper, in a series of photographs or as a "PowerPoint" presentation. .

Due to the range of styles that homework takes children will receive feedback in a variety of ways. Their work will always be acknowledged. This will frequently be verbal feedback, when a member of staff will speak to a child about their work. Discussing work is the most valuable way of receiving feedback and has the biggest impact on learning. Acknowledgement may also take the form of “marking”, having work “ticked” or initialled or having a smiley face drawn alongside the work.

We believe that homework is very important and expect it to be completed to the best of a child’s ability. We will aim to be flexible and understanding if a child occasionally is unable to complete a piece of work at home or forgets it. Children always get an appropriate amount of time to do their homework so we encourage them to come and speak with a member of staff in advance of the “deadline” if they have not understood what they have to do. However, because we believe homework has a valuable impact on learning, if a child repeatedly fails to do their homework they will be given the opportunity to complete it at school, at lunch time or during Golden Time.

The school’s responsibilities are to:

- Follow the guidelines for homework set out by the Department for Education.
- Follow the guidelines and principles set out in this statement.
- Inform children, parents and carers of the routines for setting, completing and handing in homework which operate in each class.
- Share with parents and carers ways in which the school teaches children the skills of literacy and numeracy to allow them to support their child’s learning. Meetings and workshops are to be arranged by the Literacy and Numeracy Coordinators.
- Plan and set regular homework that matches the needs of all children in the class, and that is challenging and engages children in learning.
- Provide appropriate feedback for the work completed.
- Monitor the quality and extent to which children are regularly completing their homework set.

The child’s responsibilities are to:

- Ensure they understand what they have to do and ask for clarification if this is not the case.
- Complete the work to the very best of their ability and always take great care with the work they do.
- Complete and hand the work in on time, following the structures that operate in their class.
- Apply the feedback that is given.
- Look after any resources they use including folders and exercise books and especially reading books.

The Parents and Carers’ responsibilities are to:

- Be aware of and support the routines and structures that operate in their child’s class
- Provide time, space and support for children to work.
- Inform members of staff if there is a reason why a piece of work has not been completed.
- Ensure that children have completed their homework to the best of their ability and have taken care over their work.
- Provide appropriate guidance and support (without doing it for them!).

Reviewed September 2015.
Next review September 2018