

Guideline

Guideline:	Homework
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Lead staff member:	R Taj
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Summary of values

Every child has the right to access a world-class education. We exist to empower, enable and inspire children to achieve their every potential through exceptional teaching, innovative approaches to learning, and a community-oriented approach to meeting learners' needs.

Casterton Primary Academy Homework Guideline

The focus of homework at Casterton Primary Academy is on the important skills of Reading, Writing and Maths. Short activities of different kinds, including, learning spellings and number facts and together, provide a very important opportunity for children to talk about what they are learning to an interested adult, and to practice key skills in a supportive environment. As children get older, homework provides an opportunity for children to develop the skills of independent learning, and this should increasingly become its main purpose. It is important that children should gradually get into the habit of regularly devoting periods of time, which may not be long, to study on their own. By the time children reach Year 6, homework will be more structured and demanding. This approach will benefit learning and ensure that, in relation to homework as much as to other aspects, their transition to secondary school is as smooth as possible.

The main purposes of homework are:

- To develop further an effective partnership between the school, pupils and parents/carers in pursuing the aims of the school and strengthening the home-school relationship.
- To help parents/carers to understand more clearly what their children are learning in school.
- To share with parents/carers the approaches and strategies used in school.
- To give pupils the opportunity to practise and consolidate their learning, particularly in Reading, Writing and Maths.
- To encourage independent learning skills.
- To help pupils to learn to plan the use of their time and to develop confidence and self-motivation.
- To extend learning beyond the school environment.

The aims of implementing this policy are to:

- Ensure homework is purposeful and contributes to the raising of attainment.
- Ensure a consistent approach throughout the school.
- Encourage pupils to develop increasing independence and a sense of personal responsibility.
- Meet the individual needs of pupils.
- Make expectations about homework clear to pupils and parents/carers.
- Extend the opportunities provided for learning.
- Improve the depth of understanding and the quality of the partnership between home and school.
- Provide activities that encourage parents/carers to work with their children.

Rewards and Sanctions

Homework that is completed well and on time is acknowledged and praised with stickers and the awarding of Dojos.

If homework tasks are not completed or the class teacher feels that there are issues with the quality or quantity of homework produced they will:

- Keep the child in at playtime and/or lunchtime to complete their homework.
- Discuss the matter with the child's parent/carer.

There might be a genuine reason when a piece of homework cannot be completed on time. If this is the case, then the parent/carer must contact the school and inform the class teacher.

The role of parents and carers

Parents and carers are encouraged to:

- Provide a peaceful, suitable place in which their child can do their homework;
- Make it clear to their children that they value homework and support the school in explaining how it can help their learning;
- Support their children and praise them when they have completed homework;
- Become actively involved in joint homework activities.

Weekly Homework Expectations

Year Group	Daily Activities (including weekends)	Year Group	Daily Activities (including weekends)
Reception	Reading (5-10 minutes daily) Practising tricky words Practising number bonds	Year 1 and Year 2	Reading (At least 10 minutes daily) Spellings Maths Facts Weekend- Eng and Maths focused homework
Year 3 and Year 4	Reading (10 – 15 minutes daily) Spellings Maths Facts Weekend- Eng and Maths focused homework	Year 5 and Year 6	Reading (At least 15 minutes daily) Spellings Maths Facts Weekend- Eng and Maths focused homework
Weekend homework- This may include work relating to the wider curriculum and this will be balanced with expectations with Eng/Maths homework to be provided. Children may also be set a mini project task linking to their curriculum learning.			

Week beginning:		Title		Author	
Weekly spellings	Weekly maths facts	Reading Journal			
		Pages		Home	School
Space for additional notes, activities and reminders. Children in Year 5 and 6 may use this space to record the pages from their homework books to complete over the weekend.	Monday	Pages			
	Tuesday	Pages			
	Wednesday	Pages			
	Thursday	Pages			
	Friday	Pages			
	Weekend	An adult at home will sign here each day when they have listened to their child read.			
REMEMBER TO READ AT HOME FOR AT LEAST 15 MINUTES EVERY DAY!					

Brain Box

At the start of the Academic year, every child will be provided with a Brain Box book. The Brain Box content has been designed to meet the learning needs of children at the different stages of their journey through primary school. Each version of the Brain Box contains information that is aimed at children and/or parents to promote and support learning at home. The EYFS and KS1 Brain Box includes support for parents with phonics, alongside the oracy, reading, writing and maths support also provided in the Lower Key Stage 2 and Upper Key Stage versions of the book. For maths, this includes information for parents about

the maths strategies used in addition, subtraction, multiplication and division calculations.

The Brain Box also contains weekly pages which clearly set out the expectations for children's reading, spelling and math facts homework for the week.

Additional Homework Tasks and Competitions

In addition to the weekly homework expectations outlined above, individual classes, year groups, Key Stages or the whole school may also set additional homework tasks for the children to complete. These may include competitions set by other organisations, such as the BBC 500 Word writing competition or challenges set by class teachers/subject leaders. Class teachers will make it clear to children and parents/carers if these additional tasks are compulsory or voluntary. Children who do not complete a compulsory task, may be subject to sanctions as described previously. Rewards may be given to children for completion of any additional homework task.

Record Keeping and Monitoring

Homework tasks are monitored by the class teacher or a TA on a regular basis by weekly inspections of Brain Boxes and by keeping a record of homework and spelling test scores.