

Homework policy

RATIONALE

At Herne, we acknowledge the valuable contribution homework makes to pupils' learning and to further develop the home/school partnership. This policy sets out how homework will be carried out at Herne Junior School.

At Herne we believe learning is a continuous lifelong process. We all learn from our every experience in a variety of environments and in a range of situations. It is important that children realise learning takes place both in and out of the classroom, and that they have a responsibility to develop their own learning skills.

Engaging in homework tasks helps children to understand that learning does not just happen in the classroom, but at home, too. It helps children to take responsibility for their own work and fosters a sense of responsibility that is important for future life. Increasingly, many people engage in study during their own time, and homework is a key element of learning at the secondary level of schooling. It is, therefore, important that we begin to develop the children's sense of responsibility for their work outside of the structured learning day.

This policy has been developed in consultation with pupils, parent and staff.

AIMS

- to help children develop a sense of responsibility for their own learning
- make links between learning in and out of school enabling the curriculum to be covered in greater depth
- to standardise homework procedures across the school
- to prepare children for their secondary education
- to extend and support the children's learning on an individual basis

OBJECTIVES

Children will be taught and encouraged to

- complete a set number of pieces of homework each week and hand them in on time
- spend an agreed amount of time on each task (up to an upper limit)
- as far as possible, to complete homework tasks independently
- present their work neatly and in accordance with the school's presentation policy

METHODS

Frequency and Content of Homework

The Children will be set homework tasks for maths, spelling and reading.

- Times Tables / Number Bonds
 - The children are expected to practise, learn and consolidate the times tables that are appropriate for their age.
- Spelling
 - Spelling list will be sent home and tested (see spelling chart below). The children are expected to spend time learning these words and spelling rules. (These may be done, where applicable, through Spelling Shed)
- Reading
 - **Herne's reading expectation is that every child such read for a minimum of 10 mins for 5 out of the 7 days of a week. Home/Link books should be checked every day by classes and acknowledged by the teacher/LSA by a tick or initial.**

Spelling Chart

	Amount sent home	Amount tested	Testing frequency	Initial information
Year 3	14-16	10	Fortnightly	
Year 4	16	10	Fortnightly	
Year 5	8-10	10	Weekly	
Year 6	16-20	10	Weekly	

Children may also be asked to research a small piece of information over night, or learn words for a class performance. These types of homework should not frequently be given out.

Homework should be differentiated to take account of individual needs. It must be remembered children may not have the support at home they have in school. **Homework should take no longer than 60min per week** (this does not include reading). Consideration must also be given to able pupils, who may require further extension to the task, or a different task altogether.

Other Homework

As well as the main homework activity, the children may be set a longer-term homework activity. This could be a consolidation of work undertaken in the classroom during the week in lessons such as English, maths, science or topic where the children are extending their understanding of a concept to which they have been introduced. Alternatively, it may be a research project, a thinking skills situation, designing posters / covers for topic books, interviewing people so ideas can be shared with the class, keeping records of events, practising skills etc. It could also be used to extend the children's own interest in a particular field, or used to finish an on-going piece of work.

A year group can set no more than 2 extended 'making' homeworks across a single academic year.

Times Tables

All children in the Autumn Term will begin a weekly times tables homework. The Times Table homework will be set on the same day as the year groups other homework tasks. Children who have not completed them will have to do so in values time (on a sheet if the times tables book is not in school). In some year groups these times tables might be set on 'Times Tables Rockstar'

The Setting and Returning of Homework

In year 3, homework is given out on a Friday and must be in on a Friday. In year 4, homework is given out on Friday and must be in on Friday. For years 5 it is set on a Friday and is expected to be returned on the following Wednesday. Year 6 is set on a Thursday and must be returned on a Thursday. If homework is not given in on this day (or before), those pupils who persistently miss the homework deadline, will be invited to attend the homework club. The child must complete the homework in homework club or values time.

Homework during the Holidays

Homework will not set during the holidays; however, Year 6 will receive revision homework during the Easter break. The school actively promotes the library challenge over the summer and encourages pupils and parents to ask teachers advice should extra work be required.

Recording Homework

Generally, the children will do their homework within their homework books or digitally through 'Spelling Shed' (if applicable) or 'Times Tables Rockstar'.

The Marking of Homework

Homework should be marked in accordance with the school's Marking Policy. The impact of the daily homework will be seen through spellings and tables tests these will be fed back through the return of the sheets or the homework book. If applicable, on the project/presentation work the children should receive feedback on the quality of their homework, and what they could do to improve their work. This will also prove useful to parents wanting to help their children to improve their work, and provide them with useful feedback on the child's progress. House points may be given for homework that contribute towards the children's 'House Point Certificates'.

Monitoring of Homework Policy

The Deputy Head teacher will monitor homework books and sample homework activities during the autumn and spring term. A report will be submitted to the governing body during the summer term.

Policy agreed: September 2023
Review date: September 2024