

OLD VICARAGE SCHOOL

HOMEWORK POLICY

Purpose and Importance of Homework

Homework is an integral part of children's education. It forms an important link between home and school. It is both an opportunity for parents to be involved in their children's work and it also promotes independent study skills. Worthwhile assignments are chosen for homework and are valuable for the following reasons:-

Generally:-

- It can help children to make more rapid progress in learning.
- It can allow children to develop the practice of working on their own without the constant presence of the teacher or other pupils. It promotes independence and resourcefulness and this way of working is vital in formal education beyond the primary stage.
- Work at home provides quiet and private conditions needed for creative and thoughtful work of all kinds.
- It can provide access to materials and resources and sources of information that are not always available in the classroom.
- It can involve parents and others in the children's work for their mutual benefit.
- It can provide opportunities and the incentive to 'find out' more and research topics with more open ended time frames.
- It can be an important part of pupil's notes.
- It gives children valuable experience of working to deadlines and provides routines, which aid teachers and children with their respective responsibilities.

Specifically :-

- It provides vital extra practice in language skills and mathematics leading to consolidation and reinforcement. This includes practising key words and sounds with their family, number bonds or tables.
- It provides additional practice in reading development - the key to development in all areas of academic study.
- It provides an opportunity to enhance spelling proficiency.
- It promotes observational skills, recording abilities, collection of information, memorisation, revision and the development of study skills.
- It gauges children's understanding of work learned and further promotes concentration and comprehension.

All these activities are equally valuable to children's learning.

Parental Role

Regular homework carried out over the years is an important factor in a child's educational development and attainment. Inevitably, part of the task of monitoring and supervising falls on you, the parents. As parents, you are asked to please see your child's homework diary each day (Year 3 and above), to check on work set and sign it. Younger children have a Reading Record Book (e.g. space to write a note following pages read from your child's 'reader'). Parents are encouraged to communicate with teachers about homework in these books. We ask parents to help us develop the children's reading by gentle encouragement. Many of our children are eager readers and require no direction from their teachers or parents. However, some children are reluctant readers and may be disinclined to read. All children, regardless of their disposition to books, should make a habit of reading daily. Infants can start with ten minutes a day and by the time the children reach Year 6, it needs to be a minimum of twenty minutes. Reading should be an enjoyable activity, which can be shared between children and parents.

It is important to discuss the material, not only to ensure understanding but to enable children to develop critical reading habits in which they interact with the text so as to prevent a passive orientation. If parents have concerns regarding reading, we ask that these be discussed with the class teacher. In respect to homework it is best if children develop a

OLD VICARAGE SCHOOL

routine. Please help your children to organise his or her time to best advantage so that assignments are not all left to the last minute or forgotten altogether. Let us know if there are problems with homework that you cannot resolve. Perhaps your child seems to be doing too much, or not enough, or is finding it too easy or too difficult. Contact the class teacher, in the first instance, who will be glad to help. Please encourage your child(ren) to present their work to the highest standard.

Teachers' Role

Teachers are responsible for setting homework regularly according to the published timetable. They also have a responsibility to check that homework is handed in on time and is marked as soon as possible.

Problems

Please ensure that the homework is done by your child(ren). If your child(ren) cannot finish the set homework, please sign the page with an explanation as to why the work has not been completed. This is an important part of the home / school liaison process. If your child(ren) cannot undertake the homework set because of a special family occasion (wedding etc) or has been ill, please inform the teacher in writing. If homework is of a consistently inadequate standard, or is often handed in late or not at all, the child concerned may be asked to do his / her work under supervision at playtime or after school lunch. Parents will have due warning of the latter, but full parental involvement should make the implementation of this unnecessary.

Please inform the class teacher of any extra tuition that you are arranging. Please encourage your child to view homework in the best possible light and allow him / her time to complete it in a quiet atmosphere. Please do not allow your children to undertake homework while concurrently entertained or distracted by television.

Class by Class Homework Schedule

Reception

Reading is directed by the teacher. Children will read every day at school and at home.

KS1

Reading is undertaken daily. Spelling lists are given on Friday to be learnt for a test on the following Friday. Children start to learn times tables in the spring term.

KS2

Reading should be undertaken daily for at least 10 minutes.

Spelling words are given weekly and must be learnt for a test on the following Friday. It is best to help your child learn the spellings two or three times during the week. Homework is given everyday. Details of the homework will be written in each child's homework diary. This diary should be signed daily by parents.

Signed.....

Date.....September 2008

To be reviewed bySeptember 2009