

Haddenham Community Junior School

Homework Policy

Objectives

At Haddenham we aim to use homework

- ◆ To promote a positive work ethic
- ◆ To promote an independent approach to learning.
- ◆ To prepare children for secondary school.
- ◆ To widen knowledge and to support learning at school.
- ◆ To reinforce the notion that learning takes place both inside and outside school.
- ◆ To promote strong links between home and school and encourage parents to take an active role in their child's education.

Responsibilities of the school

The school will make new parents aware of the policy and of year group variations.

- ◆ Year 3 and 4 will be given approximately 90 minutes of homework per week. This will consist mainly of basic skills such as reading, spelling and tables.
- ◆ Year 5 and 6 will be given approximately 30 minutes of homework per day, including reading, spelling, tables and other Maths work as well as relevant topic work.
- ◆ Appropriate lengths of time will be given for completion. Children should have time to take part in outside hobbies and activities both during the week and at weekends.
- ◆ The content of homework will vary in each year group but will be planned to support school learning. Homework will be differentiated for the needs of the child when appropriate.
- ◆ Homework will be a balance between basic skills and any of the following: research, investigations, puzzles, projects and work deemed appropriate from any area of the National Curriculum. When projects are set, a maximum and minimum amount will be advised to avoid over or under indulgence.
- ◆ Work that has not been finished in class due to poor effort on the part of the child will not generally be given as homework. If this occurs during the morning session the work will be finished in the

study room at lunchtime. If this occurs in the afternoon it will be carried over to the next morning's break or lunchtime.

- ◆ Homework will be checked by teachers in a way that is appropriate to the demands of the task.
- ◆ Teachers will attempt to be as consistent as possible when setting homework. Where possible there will be a timetable of homework to which parents can refer.

Responsibilities of parents

- To be partners with the school in promoting a positive attitude towards the homework set for their child. The quality of the homework produced by the child is often determined by the high expectations of the parent.
- Parents need to strike a balance between supporting and encouraging their child and actually doing the homework for them.
- Parents need to look at the homework diary regularly for information about the homework set and the date for completion.
- Parents may need to replace a lost homework diary with a similar book.
- Parents may wish to communicate with the class teacher by writing in the homework diary.

Responsibilities of the child

- ◆ Each child will be required to have a homework diary at the start of the school year. These may be purchased from school. Homework requirements will be explained and then pupils will write this into the diary.
- ◆ Children need to appreciate that all aspects of homework are set for the sole purpose of improving their attainment or attitude to learning.
- ◆ Children should use the homework diary appropriately.
- ◆ They need to look after the diary and replace it if lost or misplaced.
- ◆ The homework diary should be taken home whenever homework is set and parents allowed to look at the requirements of that homework.

Reading

Hearing your child read or reading to your child is an important part of homework. National guidelines recommend 10 to 20 minutes a day reading. For more able readers this may be with or without an adult.

The school encourages a love of books and parents also have a role in promoting the enjoyment of books and reading at home.

Teachers listen to children read to ensure that their decoding skills and their comprehension is progressing at a satisfactory rate. Parents can play a role in the improvement of their child's reading skills in the same way.

Guidelines to help with the very important task of reading at home.

- Reading for meaning is as important as the decoding skills and parents can help to improve comprehension. Children need to be able to integrate the meaning of sentences and paragraphs. They must be aware when a passage does not make sense and go back and put it right; self correction is an indicator of understanding.
- Comprehension can be improved by training the children to look for key phrases or words that help them clarify what is happening in the text. It also improves when the context is at the correct level both in terms of interest and difficulty.
- It is important not just to read the words and understand them but to be able to talk about the book i.e. What has happened? What might happen? Why?
- Word recognition needs to be fast and effortless as speed can help with comprehension.
- Strategies that can be used to help your child with their decoding skills in reading include:
 - i. Using pictures for clues.
 - ii. Rereading a sentence.
 - iii. Splitting an unknown word up and then blending.
 - iv. Missing the word out and trying to guess, using the context of the passage.
 - v. Using knowledge of phonic sounds to build a word.
 - vi. Using rhyme, as children have an ability to store rhyme.

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