

# Lancasterian Primary School

## Homework Policy



Version No.	Date	Approved by	Review Frequency	Review Date
2	January 2018	Governors	+2 years	January 2020

### Aims

Homework is an opportunity to prepare for, consolidate and extend the learning which takes place in the classroom. **Research shows that homework has the best impact where it is focussed on building fundamental skills.**

Through homework we aim to:

- Encourage children to take an interest in and responsibility for their own learning and to become independent learners;
- Encourage an enthusiasm for research and investigation;
- Extend and support learning through reinforcement and revision;
- Provide additional opportunities for children to practice and enjoy reading, spelling, number bonds and times tables;
- Raise standards of attainment, particularly in English and maths;
- Provide opportunities for parents, children and the school to work in partnership and involve parents in their children's learning;
- Prepare year 6 children for secondary transfer.

### Reading at the heart of our homework policy

#### Foundation Stage

- In Nursery, all parents are encouraged to change books daily, choosing from a range of genres – poems and rhymes, stories, non-fiction etc.
- In Reception, books will be changed weekly and recorded in the home-school diary. Parents can support their child to learn high frequency sight words to improve fluency in reading.

#### KS1 and 2

The expectation is that all children must read daily for at least 20 minutes. Younger and less confident readers will need one-to-one support from an adult and all children should have their reading record signed **each day** at home by an adult. Children should bring in their reading book and their signed reading record to school where it will be checked **once a week** by a member of staff. House points may be used as a reward for bringing in the reading record.

- Key Stage 1 – Books are changed a minimum of once week, but children should read every day. The reading record should be checked and initialled weekly by a member of staff. From time to time a comment may be added. Parents can support their child to learn high frequency sight words to improve fluency in reading.
- Key Stage 2 - Children in years 3-6 can take home book corner books or library books and change them as and when they need to.

### What other homework tasks do we give?

#### Foundation Stage

- We will send children's individual 'special books' home regularly to provide an opportunity for parents to see and share what the children have been doing at school.

- We welcome contributions, photos and pictures so we can share in new achievements and interests from home. Parents/carers are asked to record their child's interests at home/school and feedback to teachers when children are 'focus' child for the coming week (lists of focus children are displayed in class and parents are texted a weekly reminder to fill in the focus child form).
- Further activities and ideas will be provided at regular family phonics sessions.

### KS1&2

- Children will be given maths 'Learn Its' (number bonds and/or times tables) to improve their rapid recall of number facts. In KS2 children will take part in a weekly timed Times Tables Challenge administered in class.
- Spellings will be given weekly for a test administered in class.
- Teachers may also give their classes occasional projects to complete across a number of weeks, relating to their current topic.
- In Y1, further activities and ideas will be provided at regular Family Phonics sessions.
- Y2 and Y6 children may receive additional SATs practice work throughout the year.
- Pupils also have access to the London Grid for Learning resources which can be found at <https://www.lgfl.net/learning-resources/grid> and which they can access online at any time. Ideas can also be found on the school website.
- In KS1 and 2, teachers may assign students tasks on Mathletics. Once their assigned tasks are completed, they can have free access to other games and challenges on the website.
- We will send children's books home twice a year to provide an opportunity for parents to see and share what the children have been doing at school. There will also be a chance to see books at Parents' Evening.

## **Working in partnership with parents/carers**

Research confirms that where parents are positively involved in their children's learning, self-esteem and confidence grows and greater progress is made. With this in mind, at Lancasterian Primary School we seek to develop a partnership with parents/carers in supporting their children's learning. We need to make every effort to ensure that homework does not become an unnecessary burden on either children or their parents/carers.

### We will:

- Aim to set homework regularly and consistently according to school policy;
- Match homework to the ability of the child;
- Ensure that it should take no more than 10 – 30 minutes (depending on the age/ability of the child);
- Make every effort to ensure that it is clear what is required for any work sent home;
- Maintain a regular dialogue with parents about homework through reading records, informal chats in the playground, parents' evenings etc;
- Be understanding about issues at home and the difficulties homework may present in some family situations and provide advice and support for children and families in getting homework done.

### We hope that parents/carers will:

- Make it clear to their children that they value homework and its place in developing children as learners;
- Provide, where possible, a reasonably peaceful time and place for their children to do their homework with the support/encouragement of an adult;
- Encourage their children to do their homework and return it to school on time;
- Praise their children when they have completed homework;
- Maintain a regular dialogue with teachers about homework through reading records, informal chats in the playground, attendance at parents' evenings etc;
- Ask teachers for help if their child is having difficulties with homework set.