



HOMework

POLICY

‘Green Lane - A Big School with a Big Heart’

Rationale for the Policy

Green Lane Primary School is fully committed to extending the learning and achievement of all pupils and considers this homework policy to be part of their overall strategy to achieve that aim.

We believe that homework, given in the right quantity and of a type suitable for the age and ability of the child, can make a significant contribution enabling the child to reach their maximum potential and aid their progress towards becoming independent learners.

Through this policy we aim to:

- Ensure consistency of approach throughout the school
- Ensure progression towards independence and individual responsibility
- Ensure the needs of the individual pupil are taken into account
- Ensure parents/guardians have a clear understanding about expectations from themselves and the pupil
- Improve the quality of learning experience offered to pupils
- Extend and support the learning experience via reinforcement and revision
- Provide opportunities for parents, pupils and school to work in partnership
- Provide opportunities for parents and pupils to work together to enjoy learning experiences
- Encourage children to develop long term strategies for future needs
- At Year 6, to prepare children for secondary transfer.

Purpose of Homework

Homework is set for a variety of reasons but the main purposes are as follows:

- To reinforce the skills learned in school
- To consolidate understanding of facts and concepts learned in school
- To extend school learning
- To provide opportunities for additional reading and research
- To develop skills of independent learning and working
- To engage parents in an effective partnership to pursue the aims of the school
- To help develop the confidence and self discipline needed for children to be able to study on their own
- To prepare Year Six children for their National **Assessments** and for the requirements of secondary school

Types of Homework

Homework may include the following:

- Regular reading practice and reading related activities
- Learning words and spellings
- Learning tables and other mental arithmetic tasks
- Revision of work covered in lessons
- Reading in preparation for lessons
- Finding out information/researching a topic
- Written assignments in any subject areas
- Preparing oral presentations

- Individual children may be asked to complete unfinished work at home.
- Tasks to complete in conjunction with parent
- Individual children experiencing difficulties with particular work may be given extra practice work to help their educational progress.

Parental help and support in all these areas will greatly benefit each child and will support work undertaken in school.

Homework tasks will:

- Have a clear focus and purpose.
- Give plenty of opportunities for pupils to succeed.
- Help develop social as well as other skills where necessary
- Be varied
- Be manageable for children and teachers.

Time Allocation for Homework

The time children should spend on homework will vary according to the age and ability of the individual child.

Homework should not be such that it prevents children from participating in activities in the evening such as sport, music, and other clubs. However, we hope parents will assist children in planning their time to enable a correct balance of homework, play, relaxation and sleep.

Time allocations as suggested by the DFE are as follows:

Reception /Year 1/Year2 – One hour per week

Year 3 - One and a half hours/week

Year 4 - One and a half hours/week

Year 5 - Two and a half hours/week

Year 6 - Two and a half hours/week

(This may increase slightly as their SAT Assessments approach but will be balanced by a more relaxed approach to homework after the SATS.)

Daily reading practice can be included in this allocation but when the homework activity is something other than reading children should still be encouraged to do some reading.

Special Educational Needs and Equal Opportunity

Children with special educational needs will also benefit from homework, and it is important that they should do as much in common with the other children as possible.

Therefore it is important that the setting and completion of appropriate homework for these children needs close co-operation between class teachers, and parents.

Parents whose first language is not English and who require help to support their children are supported by our Parent Support Adviser who also operates a Homework Club at lunchtime to assist children who may struggle, for whatever reasons, to complete their homework at home.

The Role of Parents/Guardians in Supporting Pupils

We hope that parents will support their children as fully as possible in order that children can meet the demands and expectations of homework.

We encourage parents to:

- Check their child's Homework Book regularly and sign to say homework has been completed on a weekly basis.
- Provide a reasonably peaceful, suitable place in which pupils can do their homework.
- Provide appropriate help and support depending on the ability and age of the child and the nature of the tasks set.
- Become involved in joint homework activities.
- Encourage pupils to present work to the standard expected in school.
- Make it clear to pupils that they value homework and support the school in explaining how it can help their learning.
- Encourage pupils and praise them when they have completed their homework.
- Assist school by ensuring the homework is handed in on time.

The Role of Pupils

We expect children to consider their homework as important as work they complete in school.

Children in Key Stage 2 will be given a Homework Exercise Book.

We expect the same standards of care and presentation as are required in school.

We expect all children to take responsibility for doing their homework and returning it to school on the required day.

(This will, of course, need the support of parents and teachers - especially with our younger children.)

We expect children to follow the Green Lane Homework Rules:

- 1. Find a quiet spot in the house.**
- 2. Sit at a table.**
- 3. Switch off the television.**
- 4. Have clean hands.**
- 5. Have all your equipment ready e.g. Pencil, pen, ruler etc.**
- 6. Follow instructions carefully.**
- 7. Present your work well and keep your homework book/s clean.**
- 8. Ask for help if you need it.**
- 9. Check your work and ask a family member to check.**
- 10. Remember to take your homework back to school.**

Communication between Home and School

All children are issued with a homework book. In KS2 there may be separate books for Literacy and Numeracy.

At the front of the book is a table which:

- outlines the homework set for the week
- provides the opportunity for parents to sign when homework has been completed
- provides a space for comments
- has space to record the results of spelling and mental tests

Additional instructions may be included on the relevant page in the Homework. Parents should also feel free to communicate about the homework via the comment box or on the relevant page in the homework book.

Each Year Group Team will have their own arrangements and parents will be informed at the beginning of the year on which days homework will be set and when it is due back. Any variation to these arrangements will either be written in the Homework Book or advised by way of an additional note home.

(Arrangements for Reception children vary from the above procedure and will be advised separately at the beginning of each year.)

Feedback for Pupils and Parents

Homework will be marked and monitored and children given feedback in a variety of ways:

- Through class discussion of work undertaken at home.
- Marking homework together as a class or group.
- Through testing

(E.g. - of spellings, tables etc)

- Through using the results and products of homework in their classwork.

(E.g. - research work on history topics being used to enhance their work in school)

- Through using results in class graphs, charts or investigations.

(E.g. - group graphs of methods of heating, insulation)

- Oral presentation by children or groups of children.

(E.g. after interviewing a family member about their childhood)

- Individual marking of work.

Parents may receive feedback in a variety of ways:

- By reading test scores on the Homework Record Sheet
- By attending Open Evenings to receive oral feedback and observe the results of work displayed in classrooms and corridors.
- Reading teacher's comments on homework in the child's homework exercise book.

If children consistently fail to complete homework or forget their Homework parents will be informed by means of a Homework Alert letter.

Alternatively, we may ask parents to pop into school to talk with the class teacher if the problem persists.

We view the setting and completion of homework as a partnership between home and school and to that end we would also ask that parents feel free to come in and discuss any issues relating to homework with their child's class teacher.

Reception classes will use a slightly different system for communicating between home and school. They will use a small notebook for written communication – this is deemed to be more appropriate for Reception Age children where teachers see their parents on a very regular basis.

This policy was revised and presented to the Governing Body during the Spring Term 2012.

It will be reviewed in the light of developing policy and practice concerning homework and in line with the normal review processes outlined in the School Improvement Plan.

Signed.....Head Teacher

Signed.....Chair of Governors

Amendment Autumn 11

In our Summer 2011 Parent Survey a number of parents commented that they would like just one subject to be given each week and that this would be much more manageable.

Hence this change was introduced in September 2011.

As always we still expect children to read, learn spellings and learn tables/number bonds etc. and this is included in the time allocation for each year group.



GREEN LANE PRIMARY ACADEMY



Dear Parent/Guardian,

Date:

I write to inform you that has not completed the following homework:

Children are given many reminders about homework and always given sufficient time to complete it.

We believe that homework, given in the right quantity and of a type suitable for the age and ability of the child, can make a significant contribution to learning. Homework helps to ensure that children reach their maximum potential and aids their progress towards becoming independent learners.

In addition, in Year Six, it is vital revision and practice for SATs and also good preparation for secondary school.

We ask for your help in ensuring that homework is completed and returned to school on time.

Thank you

Yours sincerely

Class Teacher

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I have received the letter concerning homework.

SignedParent/Guardian

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GREEN LANE PRIMARY ACADEMY



Homework Schedule

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The Homework for Year will be as follows:

Type of Homework	Day Homework Given	Homework to be handed in by	Other Information
Reading	Monday	N/A	Number of times/wk advised in Homework Diary.

This will be the usual pattern of Homework. Other homework may be given from time to time. Any variations will be informed through the Homework Diary or, if major alterations are to be made, by way of another letter.

Thank you,

Yours sincerely

Class Teacher