St. John's CE Primary School
Wetley Rocks

Homework Policy

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"Shine like the star you are."

[14] "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. [15] Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl, instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:14-16

Our Vision:

To develop within ourselves an understanding of what is right and fair, and to have the strength to face challenges and do the right thing. To be people of hope.

To celebrate individuality, and to respect ourselves, others and the world in which we live. To be the best we can be.

Our Values (SHINE):

Strength: have the strength to stand up for what is right. Be a courageous advocate.

Hope: to be people of hope. Have hope when times are dark and difficult. Keep positive and be resilient – there is light at the end of the tunnel.

Individuality: embrace and celebrate our differences. God made us all unique and this is a very special thing.

Nurture: cherish, care for, encourage and protect everything in God's world - including yourself.

Excel: fulfil your God given potential; be the best you can be. Shine like the star you are.

We believe that education is a life-long process. A child's education does not cease when he /she leaves our school premises, learning at home is an essential part of good education.

"Homework" is any work or activity completed outside lesson time, either alone, with parents, or others. Homework makes an important contribution to progress at school.

We see the purpose of homework as being to:

- Develop an effective partnership between school and parents for each child's education, as children achieve more when teachers and parents work together.
- Consolidate/reinforce skills and understanding, particularly in Literacy and Numeracy.
- Utilise resources for learning available at home.
- Extend school learning.
- Develop confidence, independence and the self-discipline needed for personal study in preparation for secondary school and beyond.
- Provide opportunities for parents and children to work together to enjoy learning experiences.

From the Early Years simple games, learning spellings, and of course, reading with parents provides valuable opportunities for the reinforcement of key skills in a supportive environment.
As children get older, they need to develop the habit of regularly devoting short periods of time to personal study. All children are expected to take part in a variety of homework tasks to enhance and support their work in class.

This homework policy is designed:

- To ensure consistency of approach throughout the school.
- To ensure progression towards independence and individual responsibility.
- To ensure parents/carers have a clear understanding about expectations for themselves and the pupils.
- To extend and support learning.
- To provide opportunities for parents and pupils to work in partnership and enjoy learning experiences.

St. John's wants to promote reading and reading for pleasure as it is such an integral and important part of a child's life. We understand technology is more widely available, but research shows that students who are reading for pleasure and are reading widely, are more likely to achieve academic success at school and in examinations.

Therefore, it is crucial that school and homework together to promote reading at home. This will ensure that all children achieve their goals. With this in mind, reading is a priority in all key stages.

What homework is given?

Year Group	Approximate Time allocation	Activities
EYFS	10 minutes per evening	• Reading to parents. • Practical numeracy activities directed by the teacher or early phonics reinforcement work.
Key Stage 1		
Year 1	1 hr per week	• Phonetically decodable reading books, two per week. • Online Bug Club book, one per week. • Reading for pleasure book, one per week. • Spellings / phonics / handwriting weekly. • When required, maths facts work linked to classroom learning and specifically targeted to individual children where appropriate. • 1 other homework activity per term.
Year 2	1hr per week	• Daily phonics reading – books changed when appropriate. • Reading for pleasure book once a week. • Spellings • Maths consolidation activity. • 1 other homework activity per term.
Key Stage 2 ***The school expectation is that pupils have a weekly reading time of 15 minutes per day in Year 3 increasing to 30 minutes in Year 6.*** ***We also expect a quiz pass rate of 85%+. This is monitored weekly by staff using the Accelerated Reading programme.***		
Year 3	2 hours per week	• Daily reading to parents or independent reading. (Average of 15 minutes per day). • Spellings activities using Spelling Shed. • Times Tables Rocks Stars.
Year 4	2 hours and 30 minutes per week.	• Daily reading to parents or independent reading. (Average of 20 minutes per day). • Spellings activities using Spelling Shed. • Times Tables Rocks Stars. • Targeted additional multiplication activities. • English or maths activities on Atom Learning.
Year 5	3 hours per week	• Daily independent reading. (Average of 25 minutes per day). • Spellings linked to our spelling pattern. • If required, TTRS 15 minutes per week. • Maths via Atom Learning. Atom Learning will adapt questions to suit the needs of the learner. • Grammar questions on SPAG.com
Year 5	3 hours per week	• Daily independent reading. (Average of 30 minutes per day). • Spellings linked to our spelling pattern. • If required, TTRS 15 minutes per week. • Mini Maths 3x week. • Grammar questions on SPAG.com

Please note: Homework tasks may vary according to the needs of individual pupils.

How is homework sent home?

EYFS: Homework will be given to the children via their red school bag.

In KS1: Homework sheets are given out on a weekly basis and uploaded to PADLET. Any topic homework is also uploaded to PADLET.

Year 3 / Year 4: Homework will be uploaded to Spelling Shed, TTRS, Atom Learning and Accelerated Reader. Parents will be informed if their child is not meeting their targets, or not completing homework.

Year 5 / Year 6: Homework will be uploaded to Atom, SPAG.com, TTRS (if necessary) and Accelerated Reader. Parents will be informed if their child is not meeting their targets.

How staff at St. John's CE Primary support this policy:

- By promoting reading for pleasure in and out of school.
- By providing a range of homework tasks and activities.
- By ensuring that the children have a clear understanding of the tasks involved and a common understanding of the high expectations held of them individually, according to their ability.
- Uploading weekly work onto the PADLET and other learning platforms.
- Providing any necessary information to help the children complete their work.

How parents /carers can help to support their children:

- Provide a suitable place equipped with a clear table space, chair and good light which is free from distractions eg screens.
- Provide encouragement and support to children when they require it.
- Support the school in explaining and valuing homework, especially reading for pleasure.
- Encourage pupils and praise them when homework completed.
- Be actively involved in the homework.
- Share with school any issues arising from homework for example by a comment in a reading record. We would also be interested in hearing how well the children completed other activities, whether they were interesting / too easy / too hard etc.
- Reinforce the need for exemplary presentation, layout and handwriting. Explain that this is an extension of the schoolwork and so we expect the same high standards of completion.

Children are expected to:

- Tackle home tasks promptly and with a positive attitude.
- Take pride in their presentation and content, acknowledging the high personal standard expected.
- Be organised and respectful: look after and return books and completed tasks on the agreed dates.

SHINE like the star you are.