

HOMEWORK POLICY



Mission Statement: To love, to learn with God in our hearts

Policy revised: **SEPTEMBER 2019**

Review Date: **SEPTEMBER 2020**

INTRODUCTION

Here at St. John's, we appreciate how important the links between parents and teachers are and the need for us to work together. We believe that it is important for children to bring home learning from a fairly early age to help them progress, to reinforce basic skills and for them to see parents and teachers working together.

We believe:

- ✓ Learning at home is an essential part of good education.
- ✓ Regular homework is important. It gives children the opportunity to practise at home the tasks covered in class and helps them work towards improving important skills.
- ✓ Homework helps children and young people to become confident and independent in their learning, which will benefit them throughout their time at school and in adult life.

The range of home / school tasks varies throughout the school, according to the age of the child. The one thing that remains constant throughout is the fact that homework can only benefit children if we have parental support and work together.

The homework we give at St. John's is designed to reinforce and support the learning that happens during the school day.

What type of home / school tasks are given in each year group?

Nursery and Reception

- Every day your child will bring home books for sharing. Children should read/ be read to for approximately 15 minutes each day. The reading record should be signed each night so that your child can be given a new book the following day.
- Tasks to reinforce class work on phonics, number, religious education and topic will be given each week.

Years One and Two

- Every day your child will bring home a level appropriate book to read to/ with an adult. Children should read/ be read to for approximately 20 minutes each day. Please ensure that you sign their reading record every night so that they can change their book (if your child is reading chapter books, a comment still needs to be written but the book will not be changed until finished). If a child's reading record is not signed then the teacher/TA will record this in the reading record. Class teachers should discuss this with parents at the end of the day. If this continues to happen, then parents will be sent a letter asking them to meet with Mrs Matthew who will discuss ways to support children reading at home.

- Children will be given a day each week when they have a guided reading session with their teacher. From this session children will be given a phonics book to re-read and an activity to complete before their next guided session.
- Every week your child will have a spelling rule to learn (the same rule may be given for more than one week). The children will need to learn the rule and some example words that use the rule.
- Every week your child will have Mathletics homework set. We will be setting the maths homework online using the following website: www.mathletics.co.uk
- Each week your child's homework sheet will let you know what their Philosophy for Children (P4C) theme was for that week. It may also have a question for you to discuss at home.
- Each half term your child will be set an extended piece of homework. This homework will be focused on something that we are celebrating at school. For example, during book week, children might be asked to create a book.

Years Three to Six

- Every day your child will bring home a level appropriate book to read to/ with an adult. Children should read/ be read to for approximately 20 minutes each day. Please ensure that your child writes a comment about their book and that you sign their reading record every night so that they can change their book (if your child is reading chapter books, a comment still needs to be written but the book will not be changed). If a child's reading record is not signed then the teacher/TA will record this. If children have not read twice (or more) in one week they will stay in for 15 minutes at lunchtime to complete their reading with Miss Day or Mrs Matthew. Class teachers should inform parents at the end of the day that this has happened. If this continues to happen, then parents will be sent a letter asking them to meet with Mrs Matthew who will discuss ways to support children reading at home.
- Each week your child will have a guided reading session with their teacher. Their teacher will let you know which skill has been practised and how to continue this at home.
- Each week your child will be set Mathletics homework: We will be setting the maths homework online using the following website: www.mathletics.co.uk
- Each week your child will be set number skills practise including timestables.
- Each week your child will have a spelling rule to learn.
- Each week your child's homework sheet will let you know what their Philosophy for Children (P4C) theme was for that week. It may also have a question for you to discuss at home.
- Each half term your child will be set an extended piece of homework. This homework will be focused on something that we are celebrating at school. For example, during book week, children might be asked to create a book.
- Year 6 children can expect some Maths and English revision work throughout the year.

Children who are not completing homework If children are consistently not completing their homework tasks, the class teacher should follow these steps:

- If the homework is not completed or signed then 'no homework completed' will be recorded in the book and on the teacher record sheet
- If this happens for 2 weeks in a row then the child will be kept in during their lunchtime to complete the activity, which they will then take home and ask their parent to sign. The class teacher should approach the parent at the end of the day to explain why this has happened.

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- If this happens again then the child will be kept in again at lunchtime to complete the task. Again the class teacher should speak to the parent at the end of the day. If this continues to happen the parent of the child will meet with Mrs Matthew to discuss how the school can support the parents and children to complete their home learning.

Parent Information Leaflet

We provide all new parents (those joining in Nursery, Reception or at any point during the school year) with a Homework Information Booklet (see appendix) which clearly sets out our expectations, provides a list of necessary equipment and some additional activities to work on at home.

Parent Surveys and Feedback

We regularly seek feedback and comments from parents regarding homework. In July 2018 we conducted a parent homework survey. We asked for parents' thoughts on our current homework policy with the view to update the way we set weekly homework.

We had 46 responses to the survey as follows:

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
4	18	4	7	8	5

Here is a summary of the responses:

	Agree
Homework is important to my child's learning	93%
I am able to support my child with their homework	96%
My child knows what they need to do for their homework each week	96%
My child enjoys doing their homework	74%
I think that 15-20 minutes of daily reading at home is important for developing my child's reading ability	98%
The Mathematics homework my child receives is supportive of their learning (Mathletics and number facts including times tables)	80%
The English homework my child receives is supportive of their learning (Spellings)	91%
I would like more project based home learning for my child	76%

The amount of homework given by the school each week is...	Too much	About right	Not enough	I don't know
	0%	43%	52%	0%
My child finds the level of homework...	Too hard	About right	Too easy	I don't know
	2%	67%	30%	0%

The part of Mathematics homework I think helps my child's learning the most is...	Learning number facts and times tables	Mathletics	Carrying out mathematical investigations	Written calculation and other maths
	39%	33%	22%	52%

As you can see from the overall response, parents are generally very happy with our current homework policy. Most parents can see the benefit in children reading for 15-20 minutes every night and feel that they are able to support their children.