



Priory Junior School

## Homework Policy

At Priory Junior School we actively encourage children and parents to contribute to the learning process by engaging in a variety of activities at home that are linked closely to the curriculum offered at the school.

### **The Purpose of Homework**

The purpose of homework is ultimately to help children to realise their academic potential and it involves:

- Developing an effective partnership between the school and parents in the pursuit of excellence
- Consolidating and reinforcing skills and understanding, particularly in english and maths
- Exploiting resources for learning of all kinds at home
- Extending school learning, for example, through additional reading
- Encouraging pupils to develop the confidence and self-discipline needed to study on their own, and preparing them for the requirements of secondary school

We have the responsibility of endeavouring to develop in all pupils a high level of self-organisation to enable them to become responsible citizens and effective learners.

### **Types of Homework**

The main focus of homework for children at Priory Junior School is on developing english and maths skills.

### **Reading**

Children are expected to take their reading books home daily so that parents can hear them read. Parents are asked to note in log books the pages that have been read and any comments about the child's reading. It is expected that as the children become more fluent and independent, particularly in Years 5 and 6, this reading will become much more independent. It is still expected that parents will then sign the log book to indicate it has taken place.

### **Spellings**

Spellings are provided on a weekly basis for practise at home. Children are encouraged to complete the 'Look Cover Write Check' section in their Log Book. The children are tested at school on the spellings provided.

### **Mathletics / Multiplication Tables**

The school purchases an online maths software programme called Mathletics. Homework activities are set within this by teachers, reinforcing their maths learning in class. Children are able to use other parts of the programme to reinforce their maths skills, once their homework activity has been completed. Children's knowledge of multiplication tables can be reinforced through regular practise. The full list of these is included in their child's Log Books.

## Learning Logs

Learning logs are provided to the children on a weekly basis with 2 activity ideas for them to try at home. These activities reinforce the previous week's learning in class and provide an invaluable link between school and home. One of the activity ideas will always be based on english or maths (this may include mathematics). Where activities can be linked to home life, they will be.

It is expected that the children in Years 3 and 4 will spend around 20 minutes each week completing their Learning Log. As children move to Years 5 and 6, this time may increase.

Learning Logs will be given out by teachers on a Wednesday and should be returned on the following Monday.

To enable all children to be able to access their homework, we provide a lunchtime 'Homework club', and open the ICT room for Mathematics practise.

Teachers will mark the Learning Logs weekly, using stampers, or encouragement comments.

## Holiday Homework

It is recognised that holidays are an important time for families. As such, homework will not be set during the shorter half-term breaks.

Short tasks will be set during the longer holidays ie. Christmas, Easter and the Summer holiday. This will include some reading practise. Sometimes, teachers may use these holidays for children to prepare for the forthcoming theme of learning – this may include a model-making activity. Where this is set, it will be one of a **choice** of activities.

## Time Allocations

In line with DCSF guidance, it is expected that children will spend the following amount of time each week on their homework:

Years 3 and 4: 1 ½ hours per week

Years 5 and 6 30 minutes a day

These timings include daily reading and spelling practise.

## The Role of Parents

It is hoped that parents will:

- Provide a reasonably peaceful, suitable place in which their children can do their homework
- Make it clear to their children that they value homework and support the school in explaining how it can help their learning
- Encourage their children and praise them when they have completed homework

Parents are also encouraged to comment about homework tasks and their child's performance in the child's log books.

## **Monitoring and Evaluating Policies**

The policy will be reviewed every three years. As part of its review, samples of homework will be looked at, and discussions will take place with parents, pupils and teachers. Its success will be judged according to the extent that the policy contributes to the progress pupils make at school and their attitude to learning.

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