



Learning at Home

Homework Policy 2020

At Abbey Road we believe that children's learning is strongly influenced by the home. Your interest and involvement in your child's learning and education is more important than anything else in helping your child fulfil their potential.

It is our aim that homework is achievable, appropriate to the pupil's level of ability and, above all, an enjoyable, shared experience. By spending time helping your child, you will provide them with a role model, showing that you appreciate learning and recognize that learning is important for both children and adults alike. A realistic amount of set homework not only supports a child's learning but also enables parents to gain a greater understanding of what their child is learning and the progress they are making.

We recognise that children also need time to pursue their own interests and homework should never get in the way of or replace the many activities that children enjoy doing after school. We fully realise that we have some exceptionally busy children here at Abbey Road who gain so much from the varied activities they participate in.

Our Approach to the Setting of Homework

Reception, Years 1 and 2

A strong emphasis is placed upon reading at this age. Wherever possible, try to read with your child for a short time each day. This could be listening to your child read to you but also your child listening to you read stories to them.

Your child's school books will not be changed every day. Rereading books is very important. Children love to re-read stories they have enjoyed and, as they become more familiar with a story, they develop the skill of reading with expression – especially if they hear you read the same stories to them. Children's sight vocabulary of those tricky words also improves as they see the same ones again. Also, let children have a go at reading books from home too – they don't only have to read their school book. You can let us know everything they have been reading by recording it in their Reading Diary.

Children in Reception, year 1 and year 2 will bring home their **homework** book each week. This will contain a short activity which supports their learning in class and could be based on their work in English or Maths. (EYFS Homework books will begin in the Spring Term.)

Children in years 1 and 2 will bring home weekly spellings to learn. These will be tested the following week.

Children in years 1 and 2 also receive individual logins to 'Numbots', an online programme that supports their recall and understanding of number bonds and addition and subtraction facts.

From time to time, children may be set home tasks that relate to the topics they are covering at school.

Years 3, 4, 5 and 6

There continues to be an emphasis on reading as the children move through Key Stage 2 and we hope that children are reading or being read to each day. Children in Years 3 to 6 have a Reading Journal to record the reading they do at home as well as at school. This should be brought to school each day to enable teachers to keep track of reading being done at home and to record the reading they do at school.

In addition to reading, children should bring home spellings to learn, which are based on the spelling rules they have been learning in school each week.

All children in KS2 receive individual logins to 'TT Rockstars', an online programme that helps them to learn their times tables. (These are issued as children reach the spring term of year 3.)

Children in Years 3 to 6 will also bring home their **homework** book each week. During each half term, this could cover English or Maths work, which they have been learning about in class. Children may also be set home tasks that relate to the topics they are covering at school.

There may be weeks during the school year where no homework is set – for example, a week where children are involved in a performance.

Communication between parents and teachers is vital and if you feel that your child has done enough work or if they found something a little too difficult then please let the teacher know. Any information you can provide us with will be useful – for example you could let us know whether your child completed the task independently or whether they needed a little support. Also, if homework becomes a battle or a chore then let us know.

Supporting Maths and Reading at Home

In addition to this policy, we will also be producing some additional guides for parents, which will contain ideas for activities and further advice to support your child's learning at home. These will be published on our school website.

Enjoying Homework and Encouraging Creativity!

We very much want to encourage creativity and independent learning and we always welcome any additional projects that children want to do at home. If your child is motivated by a topic or theme and wishes to create something based upon that then we love showing off what they can do. This enables children to work to their strengths – painting or drawing, model making, writing or creating a Powerpoint presentation to share independent research. The list is endless! Teachers will always make time to allow children to share their hard work with the rest of the class and celebrate their efforts.

Each half term, you should receive a 'Learning Letter' from your child's class teacher that explains what they will be learning about in the half term ahead. This could help you to give them the inspiration they need!

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