

# Thomas A Becket Junior School



## **TAB** **Homework Policy**

Homework refers to any work or activity which children are asked to do outside of lesson time, either on their own or with parents or carers. The terms “homework” and “home learning” are interchangeable but for the purposes of this policy we use the former.

## Homework Policy

### **The Purposes of Homework**

Properly designed homework plays a valuable part in a child's education. Our objectives for homework are:

- to extend school learning and practise basic skills, for example through additional reading.
- to consolidate and reinforce knowledge, skills and understanding, particularly in English and Mathematics.
- to encourage children to develop the confidence, perseverance and self-discipline needed to study on their own.
- to involve parents (and other adults) in children's work, thus strengthening the partnership between the home and school.
- to help the children to learn how to work independently.
- to develop organisational and study skills.
- to experience the personal satisfaction associated with effort and achievement.

### **Homework Programme**

Regular reading is vital for children and our key belief is that all our children should read at home with their parents/carers, or on their own if they are fluent readers.

Reading records in year 3 and year 4 are sent home from school and we ask the parents to comment ideally five times a week when their child(ren) reads to them. The more fluent readers are encouraged to comment on what they are reading themselves. Staff will sign the reading record weekly and comment at the end of every half term.

In year 5 and year 6 children are required to read regularly at home and complete reading activities based on their independent reading. The reading activities will be uploaded onto Google Classroom fortnightly. Teachers will monitor the children's learning on the Google Classrooms.

Children in all year groups are expected to:

- Read to an adult at least 5 times a week.
- Learn spelling patterns and apply them in their writing (spellings are tested in class every other week).
- Learn times tables using 'Times Table Rockstars'.
- Complete maths homework either online via the website 'Mymaths' or as worksheets in maths homework book. These alternate weekly.
- Grammar and punctuation practice (year 6 only).

Children who take part in specific phonics interventions (including Read, Write, Inc. and Fresh Start) will not be required to sit a class based spelling test or dictation but are required to practise their own spelling lists at home for a test within their intervention time.

### **Feedback/ Marking of Homework**

Encouragement and praise for genuine effort should be generous. Community stars should be given to recognise the efforts of the children with their homework tasks, especially if the

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children have exceeded expectations with their independent learning or have produced any extension work. Unacceptable levels of effort or work produced should be raised with the child. If this is an ongoing problem, parents should be informed and action taken.

When homework is not done, or if it is done with little care or effort, children will normally be expected to catch up. It may be appropriate for the work to be completed at the earliest opportunity in class time, or break/ lunch times may be utilised. Teachers need to be sensitive to individual children's situations and will be prepared to have some flexibility over deadlines. We offer a lunchtime club once a week to allow children to come and complete their homework with a member of staff present to assist them with it if necessary.

### Google Classroom

Homework is set for the children via Google Classroom. These can be accessed by children and parents at home. The work can be completed on the Google Classroom and teachers can add comments where appropriate.

### Special Educational Needs

Setting the right type and amount of homework for children with special educational needs is not always easy. A very small number of children may benefit from special tasks separate from the homework set for others in the class, but the majority should do as much in common with other children as possible.

### The Role of Parents

Parents and carers can assist their children in a number of ways, for example by:

- Providing a reasonably peaceful place for the homework to be done. Ideally this should be away from the TV etc, with all necessary equipment to hand.
- Younger children may need to work more with an adult but it is also helpful to encourage the children to work independently where possible.
- Encouraging their children and praising them when they have completed homework.
- Expect deadlines to be met and check that they are.

### Class Teachers are expected to:

- Set homework according to the schedule outlined in this policy.
- Ensure that the demands of homework are correctly matched to the needs of individual children.
- Assess the work (e.g. hearing of reading, testing of spelling).
- Monitor pupils' homework and ensure the children are meeting the deadlines set.
- Plan homework that is relevant to the work currently being done in class.
- Provide support for those children who do not have access to ICT at home for them to complete online tasks.
- Homework tasks will be acknowledged/marked when handed in.

### Year Leaders are expected to:

- Monitor the quality and standards achieved by pupils in homework tasks.
- Monitor the consistency of planning, setting and assessing of homework across the year group.
- Ensure that, whenever possible, homework tasks are planned consistently across the year group.

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- Liaise with class teachers to evaluate the success of this policy and, in particular, reading at home.
- Advise and support class teachers when difficulties with homework arise.
- Discuss concerns or problems with the SLT.

### **The SLT are expected to:**

- Monitor the implementation of this policy through discussion with staff, pupils and parents.
- Sample the quality and standards achieved by pupils in their homework and in class as a direct result of homework.
- Review the homework policy annually in consultation with stakeholders.

### **Monitoring of the Policy**

The homework policy is subject to annual review by the governing body.