



Thaxted Primary School

Homework Policy

Policy Date: Spring 2022	Review Date: Spring 2024	Responsible Person: Headteacher In Conjunction with: Senior Leadership Team
Other Policies to be read in conjunction with this policy:		Marking, Feedback and Presentation Home-School Agreement

1. Rationale

At Thaxted Primary School we define the term 'homework' widely, to mean any work or activities, which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents or carers. Homework is done outside the classroom, without the guidance of teachers; it can be done at school but more usually it is done at home. Children perform at their best when home and school work together. Homework is an opportunity for parents to become active partners in supporting learning and to introduce/revise topics studied in the classroom.

2. Aims

Homework can cover a very wide range of activities, depending on the age of the child, but throughout the primary years a consistent emphasis will be put on reading, writing and maths.

We believe that it is a vital means of helping to raise pupil achievement and of enabling the school to offer some pastoral support beyond the school day. As such, it requires a vital commitment by teachers, pupils and parents. Teachers at the school are required to set homework under the guidance in this policy.

It is important that every child sees that home and school are working together in partnership to provide help, support and encouragement. Homework can help to promote a positive attitude to learning at home and provides a vital link between home and school. Parents and carers play a vital role in their children's achievement and success, and that partnership is reflected in our Home-School Agreement which makes it clear that we see the support for homework as a joint undertaking.

Parents are invited to a 'Meet the Teacher' session at the beginning of every year where they are given information about the curriculum for the forthcoming year. Homework timetables for that year will be discussed in detail at this time. Written details will be provided for parents unable to attend upon request.

Staff, Governors, parents, carers, and children should know that the purpose of homework is to:

- ✓ Support and consolidate learning in the classroom and to raise standards of achievement;
- ✓ Enhance the learning experience for each pupil, building up basic skills, particularly in reading, writing and maths;
- ✓ Identify and highlight pupil development and pupil needs;
- ✓ Develop independent learners with good study habits;
- ✓ Ensure that parents and carers have clear expectations about their role and that of the pupil;
- ✓ To prepare pupils for the next stage of education as a positive attitude to homework will help pupils when they reach secondary school.

We aim to involve parents wherever possible in supporting their children's learning. Most importantly, parents and carers are asked to:

- ✓ Make it clear to pupils how much they value homework and support the school in explaining how it can help their learning;
- ✓ Praise and encourage pupils when they take pride in their homework;
- ✓ Provide a peaceful and comfortable place, free from distractions such as television, where pupils can concentrate on their homework;

- ✓ Encourage pupils of all ages to read as much and as widely as possible and listen to their children/discuss reading, on a regular basis.

Class teachers will ensure that there is:

- ✓ Differentiation between the needs and learning targets of the individual pupils, so that students are both challenged and supported;
- ✓ A consistent approach to homework throughout the school, and progression from Reception to Year 6;
- ✓ Clarity for parents and carers about our expectations of pupils, and their role in supporting them to achieve this.

3. Organisation

As we believe that a positive attitude towards homework is essential to help pupils to achieve high standards, we will:

- ✓ Ensure that homework is monitored to high and consistent standards;
- ✓ Establish a familiar routine for pupils and parents, and one which reflects the age and capacity of the pupils involved;
- ✓ Wherever possible, ensure that similar activities and tasks will be given out on the same day each week. It will be made clear, as appropriate, that some homework will take longer than one day and time will be provided to ensure that it can be completed.

Across the school, homework may take the following forms:

- Creative 'Brain-Builder' tasks.
- Mental maths activities/Mathletics
- Writing composition, grammar, spelling and phonic activities.
- Reading and comprehension.

'BRAIN-BUILDER' TASKS

Creative Brain-Builder tasks promote our school values of *Reasoning, Reflection, Responsibility, Resourcefulness, Respect* and *Resilience*. Class teachers prepare Brain-Builder tasks which relate to the current class topic and English/Maths learning. Brain-Builder tasks can provide children with an opportunity to present their learning in any way that they choose. Children are encouraged to be as creative as possible, making use of 3D materials as appropriate for the task. At the beginning of each term, each teacher will give the children a list of possible 'Brain Builder' activities. Each child can pick ones they would like to complete, off the list. They will be expected to complete at least one per term.

Through completing them, children will:

- Extend their range of reference and research skills, thus extending their knowledge base.
- Become independent learners, by deciding how they will present their learning.

Time for sharing Brain-Builder tasks provides an opportunity for children to admire and *Respect* each other's Home Learning. Through taking part, children will:

- Develop their communication skills by presenting their Brain-Builder to children within their class, a paired class, or across the Key Stage.
- Learn to respond appropriately by reading, admiring and evaluating each other's tasks and awarding House Points for a high standard of work.
- Receive praise and encouragement, especially when they have taken pride in their work.

MENTAL MATHS / SPELLING, PHONICS & GRAMMAR / READING TASKS

These tasks are kept to a minimum and often require no written work. They are to encourage the parent and child to discuss the learning that has been taking place in the classroom and reinforce it wherever possible.

Feedback on achievement through homework may consist of:

- Routine tests which monitor progress;
- Verbal feedback from class teachers to each pupil;
- Praise and recognition in classroom and assemblies;
- Verbal comments at Parents Evenings;
- Comments in reports to parents

	Brain-Builder tasks	Mental maths activities	Spelling / Phonic & Grammar activities	Reading
Reception		Number cards to help with number recognition	Sound cards to help with sound and high frequency word recognition	We expect children to read on a daily basis.
Year 1	A list of tasks related to learning taking part this term. Children should choose and complete at least one per term but they are welcome to complete more if they wish to.	Children will learn to count in 2s, 5s and 10s.	A list of suggested phonics and key words to learn across the term.	We expect children to read on a daily basis.
Year 2	A list of tasks related to learning taking part this term. Children should choose and complete at least one per term but they are welcome to complete more if they wish to.	Children will learn their 2, 5 and 10 x tables.	Weekly spellings.	We expect children to read on a daily basis.
Year 3	A list of tasks related to learning taking part this term. Children should choose and complete at least one per term but they are	Children will learn their 3, 4 and 8 x tables.	Weekly spellings.	We expect children to read on a daily basis.

	welcome to complete more if they wish to.			
Year 4	A list of tasks related to learning taking part this term. Children should choose and complete at least one per term but they are welcome to complete more if they wish to.	Children will learn their 6, 7, 9, 11 and 12 x tables.	Weekly spellings.	We expect children to read on a daily basis.
Year 5	A list of tasks related to learning taking part this term. Children should choose and complete at least one per term but they are welcome to complete more if they wish to.	Children will practice all x tables and related division facts.	Weekly spellings.	We expect children to read on a daily basis.
Year 6	Children in Year Six, will have CGP Books for Reading, Maths and SPAG which will be worked through at home and linked to learning in the classroom Weekly spellings. Children will practice all x tables and related division facts. We expect children to read on a daily basis.			

4. Special Educational Needs

Homework for pupils with special educational needs may reflect their different needs and abilities and occasionally be related to their individual targets. Wherever possible we will ensure that all children are set the same tasks and homework. Class teachers will also ensure that:

- ✓ Homework set is differentiated for and appropriate to the individual needs of the child;
- ✓ Homework set is varied and with a range of ways of showing progress;

Homework set has a clear focus and manageable timetable.