



Homework Policy

Produced by	Lum Head Primary School
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Date Amended	September 2020
Governor responsible	Una Devlin

Adjustments to this policy during the COVID 19 pandemic

After consideration of Department for Education guidance for the successful return to school at the start of this academic year we have made adjustments to the setting and expectations for homework. The homework will be set at an appropriate level for the class, with some differentiation for individual needs. The overarching principle is to ensure the safety of all in order to minimise possible transmission of COVID by reducing the transporting of work materials in and out of school. Some work will not be expected to be returned to school, while some will have specific days that it will be sent and returned. For instance most year groups will send a reading book home that will be returned and quarantined over the weekend.

The particular arrangements for each year group/ bubble are set out below.

Reception:

Monday	Decodable reading books and phonics books sent home; to be returned on Friday.
Friday	Shared reading book and phonics activity worksheet to be sent home; reading book to be returned on Monday.

KS1

Monday	Year 1 Reading book and phonics book sent home; both to be returned on Friday. Year 2 Reading Book and maths activity sent home; reading books to be returned on Friday.
Friday	Comprehension text, question sheet and phonics activity to be completed and kept at home.

KS2

Monday	Reading book and reading record sent home; to be returned on Friday. Spelling list sent home to be tested on Friday.
Friday	Comprehension text and question sheet to be completed and kept at home. Arithmetic sheet to be sent home for the errors to be corrected and kept at home.

Our original homework policy, which is detailed below, has been temporarily suspended due to Covid-19.

Introduction

This policy has been developed following a consultation with parents, children and teachers. A wide range of views were expressed in the consultation. For example, a number of parents questioned the value of homework and its impact on learning, whilst others felt strongly that regular homework was very important. This policy aims to strike a balance between the differing views expressed, and provides a rationale for the system we use at Lum Head.

Rationale for Homework

Whilst there is evidence from educational research that homework has limited impact on the progress that children make in their learning, there is, equally, other evidence that children make greater progress when their parents are involved in their learning. This covers a wide range of activities beyond the traditional view of homework. Essentially it means that children thrive when we take an interest in their learning and help to enthuse and engage them in the things they enjoy and introduce them to new experiences too.

At Lum Head we believe that the best way that parents can support their children to become enthusiastic and successful lifelong learners is by sharing a wide range of experiences with them. The list below is by no means exhaustive.

- Share your passions/ interests with your children.
- Encourage them to talk to you about their interests.
- Watch an appropriate news clip, e.g. BBC Newsround, and discuss the topics included.
- Play board games with them, e.g. Connect 4, Monopoly, Scrabble, matching pairs etc.
- Play outside – tig, ball games, anything that gets them moving!
- Visit places – give them different experiences.
- Join clubs, e.g. Beavers, Brownies, dance, after school sports clubs.
- Try this one – what have we never done before that we would like to try?
- Read lots – hear your child read at least 4 times a week, ask questions about what they have read, make sure they see you enjoying a book too!
- Support them in creating good homework habits – sitting at a table, doing homework in a quiet place, handing it in on time.
- Use educational websites like Phonics Play, CBeebies, Topmarks.
- Bring numbers/ reading into everyday activities, e.g. shopping, baking, going for a walk.

Aims of our Homework Provision

- We use homework to support the partnership between children, parents and school, in order to help children to reach their full potential.
- It can consolidate classroom learning and provide extra practice of basic skills.
- It can offer enrichment opportunities to allow children to explore more open-ended, creative tasks.
- It can provide parents with an insight into the work that is going on in the classroom.
- Homework helps children to develop good habits in learning, especially in preparation for high school.

Homework Expectations

Teachers will:

- Set homework on a regular basis, communicating days when it will be set, when it is due in, how long to spend on it etc. with children and parents.
- Ensure that there is consistency between classes and across school, with the amount of homework children receive increasing as they progress through the school.
- Set homework which is appropriate to the needs of children.
- Encourage and support children to complete their homework on time.
- Build in opportunities for verbal feedback on homework completed, so that the children know how they have done and know that the work they have done is valued.
- Monitor how frequently children are reading.

Children will:

- Complete homework set and hand it in on time.
- Talk to their teachers if they do not understand the homework or if they want support in how to manage their homework.
- Complete homework as independently as possible, whilst being supported by their parents.

Parents will:

- Support their children to complete homework and hand it in on time.
- Support children to complete homework as independently as they can.
- Let the class teacher know if homework is taking longer than the time allocated or if their child has any problems completing it for whatever reason.
- Sign and date their child's reading record at least four times a week. (This contributes towards our reading incentive scheme.)
- Keep homework in perspective – children should also have lots of time to do other things like those on page 1.

What does the homework look like?

All children from Reception to Year 6 are expected to read on a regular basis. (at least four times a week). Other homework will vary from year group to year group, but may include phonics, maths, English, topic work. It may take the form of words to read/ learn/ practise spelling, worksheets, games to play, research tasks, projects. Teachers inform parents and children of the specifics of their year group's homework.

How long should children spend on homework?

All children should practise reading aloud at least four times a week. For younger children this may take about 5 minutes each time; for older children nearer to 10 minutes or

longer. It should include some discussion of the story/ text, and what it means. Little and often is always more beneficial than one longer reading session.

The table below is a guide to how long children in each year group should spend on average on homework other than reading, per week. We recommend that this is spread over separate sessions during the week.

Year Group	Suggested time allocation
Reception	20 minutes
Year 1	25 minutes
Year 2	30 minutes
Year 3	40 minutes
Year 4	45 minutes
Year 5	1 hour
Year 6	1 ½ hours

How do Parents know what work the children are covering?

Our school website includes information on the curriculum. Look under the School Life tab, Curriculum, for each year group. This includes half termly plans which provide some detail on the work being covered.

Our Facebook page and Twitter account include a weekly update on the work that children have covered that week in class. Check it out every Friday!

Other resources and ideas

Teachers are currently developing an area on the school's website to provide further ideas to support parents and children in their learning. This will include suggested websites and resources that can be used if parents and children so choose.

Lum Head Primary School, November 2018