

HOMEWORK



INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Teachers and schools have a duty to provide homework and children who regularly spend time at home on tasks with 1:1 support from an adult certainly progress. However, views from children, parents and teachers will always vary and range from - children should have no homework to there's not enough provided!

We have listened to your views and we understand that as parents you will have the best idea as to how much homework your child should be doing, or has time to do in their busy little lives. Indeed it might even vary from week to week. For this reason, homework given over half a term seems to work well in the classes we have trialled it in.

Moving forward we will continue to provide a range of homework options and **you can decide** on what you think is appropriate for your child - particularly in KS1. This way we are catering for everyone's needs.

We would encourage all KS1 children to read for 10 minutes a day **and it is optional** to complete other tasks, but they are there for parents/children who want them e.g. if there are 6 maths sheets to complete over half a term and your child can only completed 1 or 2 that will be fine; there is certainly no pressure.

In KS2 children should be getting into the habit of completing tasks more regularly and certainly by Y5/Y6 they should be completing all homework in preparation for SATs and secondary school (Mrs Marshall & Mrs McGee will send a separate Y6 letter outlining homework expectations)

We aim to provide homework in a variety of formats. The ICT based homework (Bug Club) can be completed at a variety of levels - just choose the one that seems right for your child.

Marking & Feedback

It is important that children receive effective feedback after all their hard work - feedback will be given in a variety of ways taking into consideration the task and the age of the child.

If the task has been given over half a term and parents are supporting their child, most parents give the appropriate feedback as their child is completing the task - this immediate feedback works very well. When the homework is returned teachers will present children with a certificate of achievement to recognise their hard work. They will also monitor their work and incorporate any misconceptions into future teaching.

Often, particularly with the younger children, teachers will give detailed verbal feedback and link the homework into the lesson. We have trialled this in Y1 & Y3 and it has had a much greater impact than simply stamping a book and handing it back.

I saw a lovely example of this in a literacy lesson. The teacher was taking it in turns to work with groups of children. The children read & discussed their writing homework with each other and the teacher (some children had not completed homework that week, but they were still fully involved in the task) - they celebrated the work and then worked in pairs to find ways of improving their writing further - finding more exciting words and looking at punctuation - the teacher talked in detail to the children about their homework and then linked the learning into the task for the day. The children produced some really high quality work by the end of the lesson.



Problems with Homework

Mostly, children are very clear on what they have to do. However, if there are any issues you can always catch the teacher at the end of the day or email me (l.gowland100@durhamlearning.net). We are always more than happy to help.

Reading:

All children should be reading regularly.
From Y2 -Y6 the development of comprehension skills will be of prime importance. Can your child answer questions relating to the text?



It doesn't matter what your child reads - as long as they read! Your child can access 'Bug Club' from home on their computer. There is lots of suitable material to read - and it's great for children who forget to bring their reading book home. Half termly reading records are working well and will continue.



Spelling:

Children from Y2-Y6 will bring a spelling book home. This book will inform you about the words your child should be able to spell. The teachers use these books in lessons, so they do need to be returned each week.

Writing:

All children will be given an exercise book to write in - they can bring it back into school to share with their friends and you as parents can comment & help your child with their writing skills. There will be writing targets in the front so you know what to look out for.



Maths: A maths booklet will be sent home to complete over half a term. Children in KS2 should be completing the whole booklet - return it school for a certificate!

