



Nether Kellet Community Primary School

HOMWORK POLICY

We believe that homework should not be extensive or a burden to the children as there are many other valuable activities children may participate in after school e.g. brownies, cubs, swimming etc. which contribute to the development of the whole child. We do, however, believe that there is great value in the children doing some homework and that parents have a vital role to play in supporting and encouraging their children in this.

Through short and informal homework tasks we aim to:

- Further enthuse the children about their learning;
- Involve parents in their children's learning;
- Practise and consolidate learning;
- Develop our children's positive and independent attitude towards learning as something that they do rather than something that is "done to them".

We encourage parents to spend time with their children, reading to them, playing games and chatting about their day in school. Children developing language skills and the skills and knowledge that comes from these activities is invaluable.

We encourage parents to help with reading, spelling and mental maths targets appropriate to the children's abilities. All children are expected to read every day for a short period of time; this may be to an adult or independently, it may also be sharing a book or reading alternate pages with an adult. Reading to your children is also essential to develop their love of reading and fire their imagination which, amongst other things, contributes greatly to their writing.

All children from Y1 to Y6 have a Learning Journey book in which they practise their mental maths skills to achieve the next step on their maths

Learning Journey. Their maths targets are focused on the mental maths skills that underpin much of their number and calculation work. They are essential and are best practised little and often. We ask children to work on their maths target for 5 minutes per day and this can be informally out loud or in their book. They will be "tested" regularly in school to move onto the next steps in their targets.

All children in school working on Phase 5 phonics and above are set weekly spelling and phonics home challenges in their phonics and spellings groups. Challenges are designed to reinforce learning taking place that week in a fun and engaging way and share learning with parents. Parents are also informed of termly themes being studied so that they can support children with information and library books etc.

Often, we set termly Home Challenges related to the termly theme; the children are set a selection of theme-related Home Challenges from which they choose. The tasks link with all areas of the curriculum and are designed to appeal to all of the children and play to all of their strengths and interests. The tasks should be completed as much as possible by the children themselves though adults may support where needed. The tasks should be seen as fun challenges and shouldn't take a long time to complete. Prizes are given at the end of each term to reward those children who put most effort into these challenges. Through the Home Challenges, we aim to further enthuse the children and forge stronger links with parents through increased awareness of learning in school.

We sometimes set Home Challenges focused on reading, maths or health and fitness when these are particular focuses for the term. Once again, these activities are aimed at being motivational, engaging and involve parents in their children's learning.

We offer guidance to parents on an informal basis on request and at parents' workshops or open afternoons which we hold regularly.

As children move into Beech Class (Y5/6) we do have high expectations around the children's independence so we expect them to complete the short homework tasks of reading, spelling and practising mental maths nightly to develop their organisational skills and ensure they are "active learners". Tasks that are set are meaningful and contribute greatly to consolidating their learning - we do not send large tasks like past test papers home with the children on a regular basis.

If children encounter any particular difficulties with any home learning tasks we do ask that parents inform us so that we can work together to overcome them as our fundamental aim is to work with parents and enthuse our children to reach their full potential.