

## Shortstown Primary School

### 1 Introduction

1.1 Homework is anything that children do outside the normal school day, which contributes to their learning in response to guidance from the school. Homework encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents to support children's learning. For example, a parent who spends time reading a story to their child before bedtime is helping with homework.

### 2 Rationale for homework

2.1 Homework is a very important part of a child's education and can add much to a child's development. We recognise that the time and resources available limit the educational experience that any school by itself can provide; children benefit greatly therefore from the mutual support of parents and teachers in encouraging them to learn both at home and at school. Indeed we see homework as an important way of establishing a successful dialogue between teachers and parents. One of the aims of our school is for children to develop as independent learners. We believe that homework is one of the main ways in which children can acquire the skill of independent learning.

2.2 Homework plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment. We also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development. While homework is important, it should not prevent children from taking part in the wide range of out-of-school clubs and organisations that play an important part in the lives of many children. We are well aware that children spend more time at home than at school, and we believe they develop their skills, interests and talents to the full only when parents encourage them to make maximum use of the experiences and opportunities that are available outside of school.

### 3 Aims and objectives

3.1 The aims and objectives of homework are:

- to enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development;
- to help pupils develop the skills of an independent learner;
- to promote a partnership between home and school in supporting each child's learning;
- to enable all aspects of the curriculum to be covered in sufficient depth;
- to provide educational experiences not possible in school;
- to consolidate and reinforce learning done in school and to allow children to practice skills taught in lessons;
- to help children develop good work habits for the future.

### 4 Types of homework

4.1 We set a variety of homework activities.

#### 1. Learning logs

We use Learning Logs as part of our Homework expectations. We and have been commended for their use by OFSTED and the authority as they are developing the children's personalised learning and have been proven to have a major impact on the child's drive to develop as a more independent learner. This skill enables them to become lifelong learners with the ability to access further education and work expectations.

The children are given opportunity during the week to share their learning logs which develops their collaborative thinking and extend their understanding. Your child shares their learning log on X day (this will vary between classes)

#### 2. Reading for pleasure

The books are banded for each class and have levels within the books. They are real books and the children will be encouraged to choose texts which appeal to their interests and share their reading at home and begin to recommend books to their peers. The children can change their own books as often as they please. They may choose easier books or more challenging books, picture books and they may choose the same book over again. This is good.

#### 3. Bug Club

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This is a reading programme where the teachers allocate eBooks online, which supports your child's reading at their level. The children will be given a login to access their page where they can read books, play games and answer questions linked to their reading.

- If you have access to an internet connection at home, your child can log on whenever they want to, from home.
- If you don't have internet access, we will be making computers available throughout the school day.
- The Foundation and KS1 eBooks are also audio-books, so children can enjoy hearing an expressive reading of the story, developing their language skills and comprehension.

There is a parent presentation on our website under the heading Parents and carers, if you would like to find out more.

### 4. RM Easymaths

This is a differentiated Maths programme, which progresses as the children learn. The online access enables the child to complete homework, play Maths games and work through lesson practices. If you have access to an internet connection at home, your child can log on whenever they want to, from home. If you don't have internet access, we will be making computers available throughout the school day

### 5. Phonic sounds and words to practice

### 6. Times table practice

## Homework Record Books

Each child will have a Homework record book which will contain their login details for Bug Club and My Maths. The children will be encouraged to use these to record important information to be shared at home. When the children read in school, notes will be made in the books. Please feel free to add any comments about any aspects of the Learning being done at home. It is imperative the child brings this book to school every day.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

1. All login details for Bug Club and RM Maths can be found on the letters home detailing the schemes, in your child's learning log and / or in your child's homework record book.
2. All links to Bug club and My Maths can be found on the school website – [www.shortstownprimary.co.uk](http://www.shortstownprimary.co.uk)
3. Although levels are allocated through bug club and RM Maths, these do not necessarily equate to your child's actual levels which are reported by school.
4. Further information about homework can be found on the website under Parents and Carers.
5. Homework record books must be in school every day in order to communicate between home and school.
6. A child will not be able to borrow a reading for pleasure book if the records show they already have one booked out. Please look at home and return any books you may find.

## 5 Amount of homework

- 5.1 There is no statutory expectation around the timing and amount of homework. However, we expect Reception and Key Stage 1 children to spend approximately one hour a week doing homework, this includes reading with a parent. We expect children in KS2 to spend longer on their Learning logs providing more in-depth research around their subject. Reading remains a priority.

## 6 Pupils with special educational needs

- 6.1 We set homework for all children as a normal part of school life. We ensure that all tasks set are appropriate to the ability of the child. If a child has special needs, we endeavour to adapt any task set so that all children can contribute in a positive way. When setting homework to pupils who are named on the register of special needs, we refer to the Individual Education Plans (IEPs). Greater challenges may be set for children with a particular aptitude in the subject area (G&T). The open ended expectation of learning logs allows this differentiation to occur naturally.

## 7 The role of parents

- 7.1 Parents have a vital role to play in their child's education, and homework is an important part of this process. We ask parents to encourage their child to complete the homework tasks that are set and participate in the Learning Logs. We invite them to help their children as they feel necessary and provide them with the sort of environment that allows children to do their best. Parents can support their child by providing a good working space at home, by enabling their child to visit the library when possible, and by discussing the work that their child is doing.

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**7.2** If parents have any problems or questions about homework, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher. If their questions are of a more general nature, they should contact the Head Teacher. Finally, if they wish to make a complaint about the school homework policy or the way it is implemented; parents should contact the governing body.

## **8 Monitoring and review**

**8.1** It is the responsibility of our governing body to agree and then monitor the school homework policy. This is done by the committee of the governing body that deals with curriculum issues. Parents complete a questionnaire during the school's OFSTED inspection, and our governing body pays careful consideration to any concern that is raised at that time, or in between OFSTED inspections, by any parent. Our governing body may, at any time, request from our Head Teacher a report on the way homework is organised in our school.

## Homework Policy

### Appendix 1

#### Here is how it works!

- A learning task will be given each week linked to the work being done in class.
- The task will be either English, Maths or Topic based.
- The learning log has a statement either  
I can .... or  
WAL (we are learning about).....
- The work must fit on no more than the double page; however the page can be extended by adding flaps and folded sections.
- There is no right or wrong way to complete a task, it is up to you how you do it!
- Be creative - here are some ideas of things to do and use...

Pictures	Gel pens
Writing	Glitter pens
Drawings	Paint
Photos	Felt tips
Pop up pictures	Collage
Prints from internet	Materials
Pictures from magazines	Pens
Flaps	Crayons
Stick things in	String

- Learning logs will be given out weekly. They must be returned to school as the children are given opportunity during the week to share their learning log which develops their collaborative thinking and extends their understanding.
- If you want to see some examples, look at [www.learninglogs.co.uk](http://www.learninglogs.co.uk)
- If you have any questions about the learning logs then please come and speak to us.

The logs can be completed independently or, we have had a number of parents who love to participate in their child's homework and enjoy completing the activity with their child.