



**Donnington Wood Infant School  
& Nursery**

# Homework policy

Agreed: June 2017

### **Through this policy we aim to:**

- ensure a consistent approach to homework throughout the school.
- ensure the needs of each individual pupil are taken into account;
- ensure parents/carers understand clearly what is expected from them and their child;
- extend and support each child's learning experience;
- provide opportunities for parents, pupils and school to work in partnership;
- provide opportunities for parents and pupils to work together to enjoy learning experiences;

### **What is homework?**

- Homework is any work or activities which pupils do outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents or carers.

### **Why do we set homework?**

We believe that homework enables each child to:

- actively involve their parents or other carers in their learning;
- consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding, particularly in literacy and numeracy;
- extend school learning;
- take advantage of learning resources which may be available at home;
- progress towards becoming more independent learners.

### **Who will plan the homework?**

Homework will be planned by the teachers who will ensure that the homework set is both balanced and manageable, and that it follows a weekly pattern. Teachers will also ensure that appropriate reading material is available for children to select on a daily basis.

### **The role of parents and carers:**

Parents and carers can best support the child's learning by :-

- providing a reasonably peaceful, suitable place in which the child can do their homework;
- providing the appropriate resources for the child to complete the homework
- making it clear to the child that they value homework and support the school in explaining how homework can help their learning;
- encourage pupils and praise them when they have completed homework;
- Support children with the application of learnt spellings

### **The type and amount of homework:**

On average the children will be expected to spend about one hour a week on homework. In addition to this the Government recommends that all children spend between 10 - 20 minutes reading each day. As children learn better by practicing their skills little and often, most of the homework will be given weekly.

### **Nursery 3s**

Children are encouraged to choose a book to take home to share with an adult. Children have a reading diary to record the books they have shared.

Parents are encouraged to share their child's experiences at home through contributing to their child's Learning Journey and occasional home activities suggested by nursery.

### **Reception**

#### Phonics

Phonics are taught using 'Letters and sounds' materials on a daily basis. Information about how parents can support this is sent home as necessary. Children also learn high frequency words and parents are encouraged to support their children with practising to read these fluently.

Information about phonics and high frequency words is included in each child's reading diary.

#### Reading Books

Reception children have reading books appropriate to their phonics phase to read at home. As children become more proficient with phonics they move through the colour book bands.

Children are expected to share and read books with their parents and carers every day for at least 10 mins. Children have a reading diary to record books they have read at home and at school. They can collect a prize every time they have read ten times.

#### Homework activities

Homework activities are varied and theme / topic related. Parents are encouraged to complete activities with their child and share them in school. Parents are encouraged to share their child's experiences at home through contributing to their child's Learning Journey and celebrating their achievements at home.

### **Years 1 and 2**

#### Phonics & Reading

Phonics are taught using 'Letters and sounds' materials in small groups on a daily basis. Children have reading books appropriate to their phonics phase to read at home. As children become more proficient readers they move through the colour book bands. Children are expected to share and read books with their parents and carers every day for at least 10 mins. Parents are encouraged to talk to their child about the books they read to help develop comprehension skills. Children have a reading diary to record books they have read at home and at school. They can collect a prize every time they have read ten times.

#### Homework activities

Homework activities are varied and theme / topic related. Parents are encouraged to complete activities with their child and share them in school. Some activities can take the form of an investigation and require research; others are building projects all homework activities are linked to the termly theme.

### **Why will children sometimes be given extra homework?**

Children who take part in specialised lessons may sometimes be set extra home activities to reinforce the work being done. Children should complete this work alongside their normal homework unless the child or the parents have been told otherwise. If the child is finding they have too much work then parents should speak to the child's teacher.

### **How can parents find out more information about homework?**

Each year group will inform the parents about homework in the parents meetings held at the beginning of the year. Teachers will have different systems for handing in homework and they will tell parents and children about this at the beginning of the year.

If parents need advice on how to support their children with homework then they can talk to the class teacher.

### **What about children who don't complete homework?**

The expectation is that children will complete homework. Teachers will keep records of children completing homework and these records will be checked on a regular basis. If there are any problems with children not completing homework then the teacher will speak to parents to find out why.

### **How will the homework be marked?**

Teachers will mark children's homework in a variety of ways but always according to the schools marking policy. Generally the work will be initialled by the teacher to show they have marked it. Teachers generally will not mark homework that is handed in late.