



Minsterley School Homework Policy

The term HOMEWORK refers to any work or activities which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with the support of parents or carers. This could be in the form of written outcomes or practical, research or discussion based tasks. At Minsterley School, we are of the opinion that in certain areas of the school curriculum pupils benefit from some additional input from within the home. Generally, this will be in the areas of reading, spelling and the learning of multiplication tables. Sometimes this will be extended work with children using resources other than those found in school.

- **Reading:** A partnership between school and home is vital. It is very helpful if parents are able to spare a little time each day to enjoy reading or simply to share books in the early stages. When fluency is achieved a child is termed a 'free' reader; He/she is still expected to read at home. Reading diary activities and book reviews can be completed at home or during sustained silent reading or guided reading sessions in school. Children in Foundation Stage and early year 1 will bring home flashcards to support their reading activities.
- **Spelling:** Each child, when the class teachers feel he/she is able, is given some spellings to learn, usually on a weekly basis. These will often be tested in school to show progress. As above the younger children will bring home flashcards instead of word lists to aid their spelling. Testing will be done using words in context to support transference skills into written work.
- **Numeracy:** Children are expected to work their way through learning their times tables to 12 and number bonds which will allow them to develop key mathematical skills. They will be provided with number fact books relevant to their year group. We have purchased TT Rockstars for every child in school to use to practice their tables. We have also purchased access to a further tables APP.

The amount of homework set for pupils will increase as they move through the school. However, we must be aware that too much homework can cause additional stress and pressure on pupils and parents. Often children already have a number of after school commitments in the way of sports activities and other interests that can make the completion of homework difficult. Concerns raised about the amount of homework should be directed to the class teacher. Staff will review homework set and make adjustments where they feel it is necessary. The homework policy will be reviewed annually to ensure that the balance of time is correct.

Homework should be clearly linked to the teaching which has happened in school during that week or in preparation for something which the children will be involved in doing in the coming week. Homework should not always be a written outcome; in fact, giving children options regarding how they present and complete their homework is a positive way to develop independence.

If parents feel that they need additional homework tasks to complete with their children then we have included a list of suitable activities below which could supplement any homework set by school.

These include:

- Cooking – reading recipes, sequencing, weights and measures
- Telling the time – what time is it, how long until... says of the weeks, months of the year
- Writing letters and e-mails to family and friends, imaginary characters from books
- Reading and sharing books, writing book reviews
- Holiday diaries, weekly diary entry
- Shopping – calculating bills, reading shopping lists, find me something that begins with/ find me something more than 50p etc. How much change will I get from ..., children paying for own sweets etc.
- Watching news round and talking about issues
- Reading newspapers, signposts, posters during car journeys, trips to town
- Nature walks – find something beginning with, find 5 different types of leaves, minibeast hunts
- Working out the cost of sales items
- Websites such as BBC Bitesize, Phonics play, Woodland Junior, ICT games
- Make a word from the letters in car registration plates
- Play games such as word building and making a total number from 5 small numbers like Countdown
- Arts and craft activities

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