



Junction Farm Homework Policy

Reviewed: September 2018

Next Review: September 2020

Introduction

The intention of this policy is to build on current good practice regarding home / school relationships, and to provide clarity to staff, parents and children as to the type and amount of homework to be given.

Aims and Purposes of Homework

- To consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding, particularly in English and Mathematics.
- To provide an effective means of communication between school and home.
- To exploit resources of learning outside the school environment.
- To enhance pupils achievements.
- To promote an effective, positive attitude to learning.
- To encourage pupils as they get older to develop the confidence and self-discipline needed to study on their own, and prepare them for the requirements of secondary school.

Tasks and Frequency

The class teacher will send a letter to parents by the end of the first full week of each term to outline the work that will be taught during that term. Homework given will support the curriculum areas taught. If there is a time limit for any of the work, that will be made clear.

Government guidelines for homework suggest the following;

Early Years – no specific guidance

Key Stage 1 – Around 1 hour per week – we suggest 15 minutes per day

Years 3 and 4 – Around 1.5 hours per week – we suggest 20 minutes per day

Years 5 and 6 – Around 2.5 hours per week – we suggest 30 minutes per day.



The main focus of homework will be on English and Mathematics. As children progress through the school other subjects will be added.

Some activities are intended to be jointly carried out with a parent / carer (e.g. Talk homework, reading) but the emphasis is firmly on encouraging the child to work things out rather than the parent actually doing the work. If a child is really struggling with a piece of homework please write a note to the class teacher who will then give the child extra help on that area. Please do not make the child sit for an hour struggling with work that they do not understand.

Procedures

Children will be given a special homework book which also serves as a record of work. On the front cover of this book will be guidance for children and parents to read regarding homework expectations. At the beginning of each year parents are requested to sign a Home School Agreement. The book can be used as a two way communication tool so information can be exchanged and misunderstanding is kept to a minimum.

Monitoring

The individual class teacher is responsible for the setting and monitoring of homework. It is important to acknowledge that homework has been seen by the teacher. There is nothing more disheartening for a child who has put effort into a piece of work for it not to be looked at by the teacher and the effort recognised.

Pupils with Special Educational Needs/Gifted and Talented More Able

Such pupils will have homework alongside other children in their group, but often the work will be differentiated for their particular level of understanding. GTMA children will occasionally be encouraged further extend their learning with self-initiated tasks.

Missing homework

If for any reason your child has been unable to complete a piece of homework due to a family commitment or an external sporting fixture then the parent should inform the class teacher. If there is no explanation and the child hasn't completed the homework then there will be an expectation for the child to complete the work during their free time at school. If staff take the time to set and mark homework then it is important that children take the time to complete the homework.



Homework tips for parents.

- Check the homework book each week to understand the tasks your child needs to complete.
- Try to create a peaceful setting for the child to do homework.
- Help, but do not do, the homework.
- Be positive and constructive with your child.
- Celebrate success in learning – give lots of praise.
- Plan when the work is to be done, to avoid a last minute rush.
- Be patient – allow time for the child to think things through.
- Don't expect too much too soon.

Homework expectations for each Year group in more detail.

Below are some examples of the type of activities that each year group could be set:

(Please note – your child will not receive all of these activities each week.)

Early Years	Home Loan Story Books Topic related activities Phonic homework Talk homework Reading Scheme books in Reception
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Year 1 and 2 – homework books given out on a Tuesday	English Reading Spelling Handwriting Phonics Talk homework Maths Collecting items for use in school Topic
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Year 3 and 4 – homework books given out on a Tuesday	English Reading Spelling Handwriting Talk homework Maths Mental Maths/Maths Challenges Collecting items for use in school Topic Science Extended project work
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<p>Year 5 and 6 – homework books given out on a Tuesday</p>	<p>English</p> <p>Reading</p> <p>Spelling</p> <p>Talk homework</p> <p>Maths</p> <p>Mental Maths/Maths Challenges</p> <p>Collecting items for use in school</p> <p>Topic</p> <p>Science</p> <p>Extended project work</p>
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