

Streatham Wells Primary School

Homework Policy

At Streatham Wells we aim to:

- Promote the idea of education as a partnership between home and school, in order that our children see the two as working together in a mutually supportive way.
- Enable each child to pursue and/or consolidate learning beyond the school day with the support and individual attention available from their parents/carers.
- See homework as one way of ensuring that we encourage the highest expectations of our children in developing their intellectual and/or practical skills and abilities in partnership with the home.
- Ensure that homework is available to all children in an equally accessible way.
- Encourage our children as they get older to develop the confidence and self-discipline needed to study on their own, and to prepare them for the requirements of secondary school.

The Role of Parents/Carers:

Parents/Carers should be encouraged to:

- Provide a reasonably peaceful, suitable place in which their children can do their homework.
- Help their children to organise homework routines and time management.
- Make it clear to their children that they value homework and support the school in explaining how it can help their learning.
- Encourage their children and praise them during their homework.
- Offer support, advice and guidance but not complete work that children should be doing unaided.

Agreed Approaches

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS):

Although there are no formal kinds of homework provided by our EYFS team, there are plenty of ways that you can support your child's learning at home. Advice on ways to support your child at home is provided at the beginning of each half-term in the class newsletters.

In the EYFS, "homework" means involving children in everyday activities such as shopping, cooking, sharing a story, discussing the school day and following children's own interests.

Your children will be able to choose books to read at home. Each of our children in Reception is provided with a Streatham Wells book bag free of charge.

In Reception, children will also have a reading record book, which parents/carers and teachers can use to record daily 10 minute reading of their book. Books are changed regularly.

Key Stage 1:

- Homework, when set, will be related to Literacy, Maths or Topic work.
- All homework is linked to work that has already been covered in class.
- We expect all children to read with their parents for 10 minutes daily. Books will be sent home in book bags. Parents will be asked to sign and, if they wish, to comment on their child's daily reading at home in their reading record book.
- As well as reading, our Year 1 children will be given "Tricky Words" to learn each half term.
- From Year 2 children will be given homework once a week. Also, at the beginning of the year, they will be given a spelling list of common exception words to learn.
- Children from Years 1 + 2 will occasionally be set projects linked to particular times of the year e.g. designing a Spring Hat.
- Enjoyment is vital to learning and no child should be asked to work for too long or to struggle over any set work that is too difficult. If you are unsure about any work please ask your child's teacher.

- It is very important that young children have a structure for their homework, a regular time and place. This should also mean that parents will take an interest, encourage and, more often than not, work alongside their children.

Key Stage 2:

All of our children in Key Stage 2 are provided with a Homework Book.

- As children get older the frequency and duration of homework increases but homework activities should still, as far as possible, be enjoyable should they find it too difficult please let the class teacher know.
- Until the children are fluent readers, parents/carers are still expected to hear their children read daily and sign their reading records weekly. Once the children are fluent readers they will have a reading diary in which they should record their reading and add a comment on a daily basis. Parents/carers will be expected to ensure that their children are reading for 10 minutes on a daily basis and sign the reading diary on a weekly basis.
- Work will be related to learning objectives covered during each week.
- Children will occasionally be asked to learn spelling rules and not just a list of words.
- Children will be expected, as far as possible, to present their work according to our Presentation of Work policy.
- Drop-in homework clubs are run every day during lunchtimes from 12.40 – 1.10pm in the Year 4 classroom in order to facilitate opportunities to complete homework.
- It is important that our children have a set time and place to work at home, and we would recommend that the practice of good work habits is necessary and a good preparation for the transfer to secondary education.

- Parents should offer support and encouragement whilst promoting independence.

Research based projects will occasionally be set for each year group in Key Stages 1 and 2 during the academic year.

Recommended Time Allocations for Homework including Reading

The headteacher can decide how much, if any homework should be set.

Generally Streatham Wells School will refer to previous recommended times taken from the DfEE (Department for Education and Employment) publication entitled: "Homework Guidelines for Primary and Secondary Schools."

Years 2 ½-1 hour per week

Years 3 and 4 1- 1 ½ hours per week

Year 5 and 6 2-2 ½ hours per week

Please note that these are only guidelines. It's also important to remember that, as our children work so hard at school, they also need time to have fun and to pursue other activities that are not part of our school curriculum.

Homework tasks will be set by class teachers from mid-week to mid-week e.g. Tuesday – Monday. Please check with your child's class teacher for specific arrangements. This then gives our children the opportunity to have "homework free" weekends in order to join in family activities or to pursue other interests.

Reviewed Summer 2016
Next Review Summer 2018