

Dulwich Hamlet Junior School



HOMEWORK POLICY

Drafted: SC/Spring 2013
Approved: SMT/Spring 2013
Reviewed SC/Summer 2014

INTRODUCTION

This policy was developed in conjunction with staff, children, parents and carers.

We sought the views of these groupings in staff meetings, through an NFER survey and a request for views and opinions via the newsletter.

Children were also asked in class and School Council. We also considered some of the more recent research evidence available.

OUR VISION

- To provide homework that is relevant meaningful and purposeful – which is not “for the sake of it”.
- To foster a love of reading and wider learning.
- To provide homework when necessary that consolidates or encourages practice of new skills
- To develop a sense of responsibility and ownership towards work completion
- To encourage the development of independent thought and the application of research tools
- To increase our home school partnership through shared understanding of work covered in school
- To prepare our eldest children for secondary school through the setting of more frequent and regular homework tasks.

HOW WE ORGANISE HOMEWORK

Each Year Group organises homework on the basis of:

The age and learning stage of the children, the links with the curriculum, and the Year Group’s ‘identity’:

Year 3: challenge

Year 4: independence

Year 5: responsibility

Year 6: achievement

Parents will always be informed of dates when homework is set and when it is due in. No homework will be due the following day but sufficient time will be given to complete it.

READING

In every Year Group we expect children to read on a **daily basis**.

We know that the key contributor to children's progress and achievement both academically and personally, is reading. Reading introduces children to new ideas, and experiences, and develops their ability to understand themselves, as well as the world in which they live. In addition, reading exposes them to vocabulary, variety of sentence construction, alternative written styles and importantly the 'look' of words. A potential significant contributory factor to good spelling retention is frequent sustained reading.

We also expect children to complete a **Reading Journal** which will either be done within school time or at home dependent on the organisation of the Year Group.. These provide an opportunity for children to engage actively with the reading book, and produce a written response. This might be an imaginative task, such as writing a letter to a character in the book, it might be a task which requires deeper thinking such as imagine another scene or location that would link to the book, it might be a selection of new vocabulary from the book, a book review or a commentary on a writer's style.

At the beginning of each academic year, every child will be provided with a Reading Journal. Children will record written activities in these books and different year groups might adopt a particular focus such as vocabulary acquisition, or extended written tasks. In Year 6 children are expected to engage with the 'Year 6 Reading Project' which assigns children a book during a term time holiday to which they respond with a variety of written tasks.

All books read as part of the **Reading Journals** form a valuable record throughout the year of the range of books read.

Useful Websites for Reading

Fiction Express On-line reading programme that encourages children to engage with authors.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/english/>

<http://www.crickweb.co.uk/ks2literacy.html>

<http://www.educationquizzes.com/ks2/english/>

<http://www.everschool.co.uk/english-key-stage-2-comprehension.html>

SPELLING

Dependent upon the age and stage of the child, we will be teaching common letter patterns, spelling rules and, as the children progress, focus increasingly on the derivation of words including common prefixes and suffixes. Our Spelling Scheme of Work is based on the New National Curriculum 2014.

Parents and carers will be kept informed regarding the spelling or word focus during the half term. We will assess learning and application of these spelling patterns and rules through ongoing assessment and children's written work. We will not have weekly spelling "tests" of set spellings, but will assess spellings including spelling patterns on an ad hoc basis.

Curriculum 2014 Literacy Appendix I

<http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/reading-owl/expert-help/grammar-punctuation-and-spelling-made-easy>

HANDWRITING

Writing in a fluent cursive style, aids speed, and helps retain spelling patterns. We will from time to time ask children to practise handwriting activities at home to support class work.

WRITTEN WORK

Teachers will, when appropriate, set written tasks for completion at home, related to text types covered in class e.g. persuasive writing, descriptive writing.

RESEARCH, TOPIC RELATED WORK AND MINI-PROJECTS

It is hugely important for “children to plan, research and critically evaluate” and “to take responsibility for their own learning” as part of their development as independent thinkers and learners.

In each Year Group there will be homework tasks related to developing and fostering these skills –such as researching an area related to a topic covered in class, or producing a piece of independently produced research. Dependent on the Year Group, there will be particular direction regarding the structure of the research project.

NUMERACY

We expect every child to learn tables 2-12 progressively. If they do not already know them when they enter in Year 3, we would expect the majority of children to have complete recall of all the related number facts of 2 5 and 10 and 3 and 6 by end of Year 3.

We would expect knowledge of 3, 4, 6, and 7, 8, 9 11 and 12 by end of Year 4.

Tables can be easily practised at home and children should become familiar with the number facts out of order. For instance a child should be able to recall the answer to 10 divided by 2 as easily as 2 times 5 is 10.

We will test times table knowledge on a “when ready” basis and children’s mastery of each set of tables, will be acknowledged through House Points and Achievement Certificates.

We will also set maths homework on a weekly basis, which supports the application of knowledge learnt in class. We will ensure that you are informed about topics covered in order to support your children at home if necessary (Calculations Document).

Homework may be a maths consolidation, or a problem to solve, or practising skills related to measurement, time and money.

Please note: homework may occasionally be in the form of a weekly worksheet. If you wish your child to practise further mathematical exercises at home, there is a list of useful website addresses at the back of this policy. Many KS2 Maths Practice books are also available from bookshops and stationers.

- [NRICH](#) A wonderful site which sets out challenges for mathematicians of all ages and abilities.
- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/maths/>
- <http://www.educationquizzes.com/ks2/maths/>