

# **CREAVERY PRIMARY SCHOOL**



## **Homework Policy**





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### **HOMEWORK POLICY**

The setting of homework is considered by teachers, parents/carers and pupils to be an intrinsic part of school life. As children progress through the school, more will be expected of them in content and in the length of time spent on work at home. We see homework as being a valuable link between home and school, where parents can be involved positively in their child's education.

#### **AIMS:**

- to consolidate, reinforce and extend the skills, knowledge and understanding developed in the classroom;
- to increase a parent's/carer's involvement in the educational development of his/her child;
- to assist with the development of an effective partnership between school and parents.
- to give parents/carers insight into the learning their children are doing in school;
- to establish habit and the skills needed for independent study.

It is vital for the pupils that there is consistency in the approach to setting homework throughout the school and also between the classes in each year group. Because of this the following is normally the case when setting homework:

- the same type of work will be set for the whole class, although it may vary in level of difficulty depending on the ability of the child;
- homework will normally be based on work already covered in class or related to work covered in class;
- year groups will work together to ensure a consistency of approach.

There is an explanation of what homework will be set throughout the school year as part of the year group parent/carer induction meetings or as information leaflets in September of each year. However, the following general guidelines apply to all year groups:

## **GENERAL GUIDELINES**

Homework should never be too onerous, nor should it ever create stress within the pupil's family.

- Parents/carers should inform their child's teacher if their child is experiencing persistent difficulties with the completion of homework tasks.
- The amount and frequency of homework should increase as a pupil gets older.
- Homework will not necessarily always come in the form of a written task.
- Homework is normally set four nights a week (it may not always be a written homework) for all classes i.e. Monday – Thursday night and should reflect a child's age and ability.
- Homework is not normally set for completion over the weekend, this includes a Friday night.
- Homework will not normally be set for completion during school holidays.
- Reading, the learning of spellings and mathematical facts/tables/mental arithmetic activities form important elements of all homework set.
- Parents/carers are requested to sign all homework diaries/reading records/written homework, as directed by class teachers
- In Primary 2 – Primary 7 spellings are set Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday night. The children should revise the week's spellings on a Thursday for a spelling for a test on a Friday.
- Homework or work will not be provided for pupils if holidays are taken during term time.
- There may be occasions when no homework will be set eg. individual pupil reward, class reward, or in light of a special event happening.
- Teachers will inform parents/carers if children are regularly failing to produce homework.
- Homework will be marked as soon as possible and in line with the school's Marking Policy.
- If a homework activity is taking too long to complete, parents/carers should endorse by signing unfinished work as having taken the allocated time.

## **THE NATURE OF HOMEWORK**

It should be noted that homework can be set in many different forms with many different expectations and outcomes. It is important to remember that when setting homework there are a number of points to consider:

Homework normally consists of:

- Reading;
- Phonics/spellings;
- Mathematical facts/tables/mental arithmetic activities;
- Written activity for P4-7 (normally Literacy, Numeracy or topic based)
- On occasions a written activity may not be set as the homework may include research activities, preparation for class talks/show and tell etc.

## **Foundation Stage / Key Stage 1**

The following are examples of the types of homework which may be given:

- Learning letter sounds and individual spellings;
- Learning to read and spell high frequency words;
- Reading - Children are encouraged to read each day;
- Literacy and Numeracy activities linked to the developmental stage of the child;
- Activities relating to number bonds, multiplication tables etc;
- Finding out information by talking to an adult;
- Homework may be topic related, for example bringing something into school.

## **Key Stage 2**

It is important that pupils should gradually get into the habit of being expected to work at home. They should be encouraged to develop personal study skills which require them to devote regular periods to time to studying on their own.

By the time pupils reach Primary 7, their homework programme covers a wide range of tasks and curriculum content. This should not only benefit their learning but also assist the transition into the post-primary sector.

The following are examples of the types of homework which may be given:

- Learning to read and spell medium frequency words;
- Learning more complex spelling patterns and rules;
- Sustained reading - Reading book/ library book to be taken home and children to be encouraged to read each day;
- Writing tasks covering a range of writing styles, e.g. report, narrative, playscript, persuasive, explanation, poetry;
- Activities relating to, multiplication tables, calculation strategies and shape and space etc;
- Mathematical concepts including problem solving;
- Those pupils engaged in the preparation for the transfer procedure may have additional homework set as required.
- Research activities.

**N.B. We are currently reviewing the way that we teach spelling in school and will be communicating with you shortly regarding the changes that we are planning to implement.**

### **Teachers should provide:**

- guidance on how homework can be completed;
- deadlines for completion of homework;
- support and guidance for parents/carers.

### **Role of Parents/Carer**

If our homework policy is to be successful in achieving our aims, then parents/carers must be clear about the ways in which they can support their children.

We will encourage parents/carers to:

- provide a reasonably suitable place in which pupils can do their homework;
- take an interest in the homework being undertaken;
- make it clear to pupils that they value homework;
- always praise their child's efforts for completing their homework;
- sign their child's homework diary/reading record/written homework
- always encourage their child to complete the homework to the best of their ability and return it to school on time;
- promote independence in older pupils (Upper Key Stage 2) by encouraging them to pack their own homework and return to the teacher on time

## HOMEWORK GUIDELINES FOR EACH YEAR GROUP

**Foundation Stage** - Primary 1 & Primary 2 - 20 minutes

**Key Stage 1** - Primary 3 & Primary 4 - 30 minutes

**Key Stage 2** - Primary 5/6/7 - 40 minutes

## HOMEWORK TIMETABLE

FS Primary 1	October – June	Reading (Monday – Thursday)	Learning Activity Phonics & Numeracy Tasks (Monday & Tuesday)	-	-
FS Primary 2	September – June	Reading (Monday – Thursday)	Learning Activity Phonics & Numeracy Tasks (Monday & Tuesday)	Spellings (start in January)	Tables (start in January)
KS1 Primary 3 & 4	September – June	Reading (Monday – Thursday)	Written Homework: Literacy/Numeracy/Topic (Monday & Thursday)	Spellings	Tables
KS2 Primary 5-7	September – June	Reading (Monday – Thursday)	Written Homework: Literacy/Numeracy/Topic (Monday & Tuesday)	Spellings	Tables

## **Foundation Stage (P1 & P2)**

**P1 Reading** Parents are asked to discuss and read a selection of books at the appropriate stage during the year. Guidance will be issued to parents in relation to this in the Class Meeting/Class Memos. Frequent consultation with your child's teacher is advised.

**P2 Reading** As the term progresses children will be given a small amount of reading that has already been prepared in school. Guidance will be issued to parents in relation to this in the Class Meeting/Class Memos. Frequent consultation with your child's teacher is advised.

**Tables** Once introduced, various tables depending on what is being taught, Monday to Wednesday, revision of these on Thursday with Test on Friday.  
Frequent consultation with your child's teacher is advised.

### **Written Homework (Monday & Tuesday)**

Learning Activities will be based mainly on simple phonics and Numeracy tasks.

## **Key Stage 1 (P3 & P4)**

**P3 Reading** Monday – Thursday

**Spellings** Spellings - on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, revision of these on Thursday with Test on Friday.

**Tables** Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, revision of these on Thursday with Test on Friday.

### **Written Homework (Monday & Thursday)**

Written homework will be based mainly on the core subjects (English, Maths) and occasionally other curriculum areas such as Topic Work i.e. Science, Geography, History etc.

**P4 Reading** Monday - Thursday

**Spellings** 10 Spellings - Monday - Wednesday, revision of these on Thursday with Test on Friday

**Tables** Monday - Wednesday, revision of these on Thursday with Test on Friday

### **Written Homework (Monday & Thursday)**

Written homework will be based mainly on the core subjects (English, Maths) and occasionally other curriculum areas such as Topic Work i.e. Science, Geography, History etc.

## **Key Stage 2 (P5-P7)**

**P5 Reading** Monday – Thursday

**Spellings** Spellings - Monday - Wednesday, revision of these on Thursday with Test on Friday

**Tables** Various tables Monday - Wednesday, revision of these on Thursday with Test on Friday

**Written Homework** - as for KS1 (P3 & P4).

**P6 Reading** Monday – Thursday

**Spellings** Spellings - Monday - Wednesday, revision of these on Thursday with Test on Friday

**Tables** Various tables Monday - Wednesday, revision of these on Thursday with Test on Friday

**Written Homework** - as for KS1 (P3 & P4).

**P7 Reading** Monday - Thursday

**Spellings** Spellings - Monday - Wednesday, revision of these on Thursday with Test on Friday

**Written** - 2 nights per week various subjects.

Those pupils engaged in the preparation for the Transfer Procedure may have additional homework set as required.

**N.B. All homework is graded to each child's ability and the number of Spellings and Tables will vary according to the academic groups in each class.**

As your child gets older the amount of supervision of written homework will vary according to the maturity of the individual. Please ensure that the work is carefully set out and neatly written. Your child should be allowed to do as much as possible on their own, but time spent with them explaining points and encouraging effort is a real investment. Homework should not be sacrificed for social engagements.

### **Notes:**

(a) It is the policy of the school to give homework from Monday to Thursday, as we believe it to be a valuable extension to the day's studies and to allow parents to see on a daily basis, progress in the main subject areas of the curriculum

(b) In the upper school (KS2 – P5/P6/P7) all homework will be noted in a diary supplied by the school.

(c) We would ask parents to co-operate with the school in ensuring that homework is satisfactorily completed and that it should take precedence over other activities or organisations. Remember homework is given for the benefit of your child's education.

Please sign or initial the homework diary and / or any written homework each evening, Monday - Thursday. A Parental Contact Letter (see the Principal) re. homework is available for any pupil who is not completing homework to the teacher's satisfaction.

(d) Spellings are better not learned in isolation. It is important that a child not only knows what a word means, but also how it is used in sentence construction.

**N.B. We are currently reviewing the way that we teach spelling in school and will be communicating with you shortly regarding the changes that we are planning to implement.**

(e) Reading is an integral part of life. It is important that children are given the opportunity to read aloud to parents and to discuss books which they have read.

(f) All homework will be checked and marked by the teaching staff - **if a homework is not completed, illegible or untidy it will have to be completed or re-written at Breaktime, Lunchtime or Golden Time. High standards must be maintained at all times.**

(g) There will be no homework given on a few occasions throughout the term, at the teacher's discretion.

(h) When a child is off for a period but is able to work at home - then parents can obtain homework from the child's teacher. This is to ensure that a child does not fall a long way behind their peers.

**Please note:**

**Any query regarding either the content or duration of homework should be addressed to the Class Teacher in the first instance and to the Principal if a satisfactory conclusion is not met.**

**September 2024**

