



SMARDEN PRIMARY SCHOOL

'Enjoying, Learning and Achieving Together'

HOMEWORK POLICY

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Due for Review	September 2022

Smarden Primary School

Summary of New Homework Policy



This policy has been developed in consultation with the children, parents, and staff of Smarden Primary School, and discussed and approved by the school governors. The results of the consultation process are available as a separate document, which sheds light on the background to this new policy.

It is being introduced in Term 1, 2019 and will be reviewed at the end of this academic year and either modified or re-adopted in September 2020.

What homework do we expect children to do?

HOME READING

- Our top priority as a school is for children to read with adults at home. Other homework is being kept to a minimum to signal that home reading with adult supervision and input is the most important thing.
- This should happen at least three times per week, and ideally every day. For younger children this will mean reading aloud. For older children, it can be a mixture of reading aloud or reading silently to themselves. The most valuable thing that parents and carers can contribute is a discussion of the book – to help make sure the child has understood it, and is able to talk about the meanings of words, the use of language, the characters, the plot, and other aspects of the text.
- Length of time will vary from child to child and between different age groups, but something around 15 minutes a day would be a suitable guide. Some children will want to do more than this. Please consult with your child's teacher if your child seems not to have a reading book or you are unsure about any aspect of this. Every child has a home reading record in which they can record what they read, and where there is a space for children or parents to add comments.
- From Year 2 onwards, children who are "free readers" will be part of Accelerated Reader and will take a test on each book they complete to acquire points and develop their reading ability.

In addition to home reading, there are three other kinds of homework that your child may be set. There is no fixed expectation about how long this will take, and all children are different, but as a guide this might take between 20 and 40 minutes per week, rising with age.

LITERACY AND GRAMMAR

- Weekly spellings will be pasted into a book and sent home for your child to learn and practice. Weekly tests will be taken in the same book so you can see how your child did each week. New spellings will come home each Tuesday and will be tested every Monday.

MATHS

- Maths homework will be online using websites such as MyMaths and Rock Star Times Tables (both children and their teachers expressed a preference for this, even though not all parents are keen on screen-based homework). Teachers will monitor whether it is being done and give feedback to children in class.

TOPIC WORK

- There will be a termly grid of topic-related weekly homework **for Year 6 only**.
- Occasionally, at the discretion of individual teachers, there may be a longer topic-based, child-led project. However, this will be the exception rather than the rule.

Finally, some thoughts about homework in general to bear in mind:

What is homework for?

- The school values homework as an important part of the link between home and school.
- Homework allows parents and carers to be aware of their child's learning and to understand and support some aspects of that learning.
- Children who receive the message at home that learning is enjoyable and valuable will be best prepared to engage with learning at school, and beyond.

What is homework not for?

- Homework is a very small part of what we expect our children to do outside of school hours. It is healthy and right that the vast majority of that time should be used for other things, including family time, rest, relaxation, physical exercise, sport, socialising, hobbies, and cultural activities.
- None of us wants our children to feel anxious or stressed, and the school's recommended homework policy should always be applied with a light touch, alongside an appraisal of the needs and challenges of individual children, and discussed with teachers as appropriate.
- Homework is not home schooling! As parents and carers most of us are not trained teachers. Homework is an opportunity for us to support learning activities set by the school, not to introduce or teach new material to children in a way that is out of step with what our children are doing in class.
- Homework is not a test of who has the most enterprising, energetic, or clever parents! It is something for children to do themselves, with adult supervision.