

*If you have any queries or concerns about homework,
please contact the school office to make an appointment
to see your child's class teacher.*



Homework Guidelines



A Guide for Parents

April 2010

Introduction

This booklet aims to help parents/carers and children to understand our homework policy and practice at Denton C.P. School.

- Why we have homework;
- The types of homework;
- How long it should take;
- Each teaching team's homework setting arrangements;
- How parents and school can support children with their homework;
- Children's responsibility for homework.

As a school, we know that, by working together, parents and school can help children to become very good learners!

Home/school link books

All children have a book bag and a home/school link book. These are to record the homework set and for the teacher and parents/carers to make any comments related to homework or other matters. Parents/carers are encouraged to check their child's book bag daily for any communications.

How Parents can support their children with homework

We encourage parents/carers to:

- be actively involved, where appropriate, in homework activities;
- provide a suitable, calm and quiet place and sufficient time for children to do their work;
- support the school by valuing homework;
- encourage and praise their children for work achieved;
- communicate with the class teacher, as necessary, when any difficulties arise, (for example, to find out about the mathematical methods used in class).

Children's responsibilities to their homework

We encourage children to:

- make time for reading every day at home;
- complete other work which is set on time;
- value the work set and take pride in their work;
- consult with their teacher, before any given deadline, if any problems occur.

- Weekly maths or literacy activity
- Occasional topic-related activity

Years 5 and 6

- At least 20 minutes daily reading and a regular reading review;
- Weekly spellings or spelling rules;
- Also weekly – one literacy-based activity and one Maths-based activity, (including learning mathematical facts related to recent Maths topics);
- Fortnightly Science homework
- Extended topic-based project

How the School can support children with their homework

The school will:

- set homework as detailed above, when appropriate and possible;
- ensure children and parents understand what is to be done, with further clarification as necessary;
- provide feedback as appropriate. (Feedback will be immediate from the parents when an activity is carried out together. Other work usually becomes part of class work and integrates into whole class discussion or the individual's own work in class);
- support parents with facilities for homework.

Why have homework?

We have homework at Denton Community Primary School for the following reasons.

- When parents/carers are working in partnership with our school, the children make better progress.
- Homework practises, develops and follows up the things that have already been learned in the classroom;
- We know that everybody is a learner—and that parents/carers, grandparents and older brothers and sisters can be valuable resources for further learning!
- Homework helps our children to become more independent and organised learners.
- Homework encourages children to realise that learning is a fun and exciting part of life — and it doesn't just happen in the classroom!
- To prepare for transition to secondary school.

Types of homework

As a school we always encourage and value children's involvement in out-of-school activities. Time for home-based school work can be fitted around these, and family life in general, bearing in mind the following:

- Regular reading at home is vital;
- Children progress better when their learning is supported at home
- Short, daily amounts of time are usually more effective than infrequent longer periods

As well as daily reading, other forms which homework may take are:

- weekly spellings;
- learning number facts (number bonds, halving/doubling, times tables, etc);
- maths tasks, e.g., telling the time, money activities, applying maths in their environment;
- maths games;
- word games;
- book reviews;
- a writing task;
- questionnaires;
- discussions/interviews;
- drawing, designing, labelling;
- research/activity linked to topic.

When teachers set homework, it is usually planned to enrich and inform the classroom learning. This makes it very important to return homework to school by any given deadline.

Arrangements for setting homework

Foundation Stage

Daily – reading activities which include letter and sound recognition, sharing and retelling stories, acting out a story. We also encourage:

- Developing listening skills through conversation, discussion, explaining, maintaining eye contact, telling stories, using puppets/story-related soft toys;
- Maths activities such as recognising number in the environment, counting skills, shopping, tidying up, setting the table;
- Social skills: playing games which involve taking turns and exploring issues of winning and losing; learning table manners such as using a knife and fork;
- Activities that develop gross motor skills, e.g., throwing, catching
- Activities that develop fine motor skills, e.g., dressing and undressing independently, including shoelaces.

Years 1 and 2

- At least 10 minutes daily reading with an adult or older child;
- Weekly spellings or letter sounds work;
- Occasional activity related to class work;
- Occasional maths games / maths activity related to class work.

Years 3 and 4

- At least 15 minutes daily reading
- Weekly spellings