

Panshanger Primary School

Homework Policy

Introduction

This policy lies within the context of the following School Aims:

- To realise each child's full potential by providing a wide range of learning opportunities for academic, social, emotional, moral, spiritual, cultural, and physical development.
- To provide a broad and balanced curriculum appropriate to the children's needs and in accordance with the Early Learning Goals and the National Curriculum.
- To raise self-esteem and confidence by helping each child to gain a sense of achievement and to take a pride in that achievement.

The Purpose of Homework

Homework is set for children in order to:

- reinforce and extend school learning
- encourage pupils to work independently, developing confidence and self discipline
- make use of resources outside the school environment
- develop an effective partnership between the school and parents/carers

Progression

The nature and quantity of homework changes as the children progress through the school and parental support is greatly valued. Home activities such as reading are on-going, but other homework is generally set once a week and increases as the children move through the school.

In the Foundation Stage, homework takes the form of shared reading and talking. Children are encouraged to borrow books from school to 'read' with an adult at home and a contact book enables parents and school staff to provide feedback on a child's reading experiences. Sound cards and key words may be sent home for children to practise reading and writing. Parents are also invited to record significant events to provide a link with home and a talking point for staff and children

In Key Stage 1, more formal homework is introduced. Children are expected to read at least three times per week, but preferably every night, and spellings are given to be learnt at home. These are tested weekly at school. The children are also given key words to learn and a variety of tasks to complete relating to literacy, mathematics or the topic they are studying in class, ranging from games to play with an adult, making collections, finding information or completing work set by the teacher.

In Key Stage 2 homework provides an opportunity for children to develop the skills of organisation and independent learning. They should get into the habit of regularly devoting periods of time to study on their own. Homework is of an increasingly broad nature and prepares pupils for the transition to Secondary school. It is set on a weekly basis and may include literacy tasks, maths challenges, research, science or humanities projects as well as spelling, reading and tables. It is vital that all children read daily for at least 10-20 minutes. They should read either to their parents or carers or read independently.

Supporting Pupils

The school will set homework on a regular basis ensuring that it is manageable and balanced. Feedback will be given as quickly as possible and in a variety of ways including discussion, marking, testing.

Please support your child by: checking their homework and Homework Diary, and signing it weekly, providing a suitable place to work and the necessary equipment. Encourage and praise your child's efforts. The school runs a homework club to support those who need help or have difficulty finding time at home.

Please use the diary for comments/feedback as a valued communication link between home and school.