



**Leasowes Primary School  
Home Learning Policy**

<b>Date Approved: September 2019</b>	<b>Print Name: Jeff Smith</b>
<b>Date to be Reviewed: September 2021</b>	<b>Signed: Jeff Smith</b>

### **Introduction**

Our policy for support in learning through homework has been completed after consultation with teachers, Parents' Forum and the children. Data collected from parents by the Parents' Forum indicated that a more consistent approach to homework is required.

Leasowes is of the opinion that homework is important to:

- Reinforce and extend the teaching and learning that occurs during the day
- Encourage parental involvement in children's learning and helps to develop independence.

It is, however important for parents to remember that after a full day at school, children may not respond to large amounts of homework. Short and regular bursts are a lot more effective than longer tasks, particularly with younger children.

### **Aims**

Our aims of providing homework are to:

- Ensure a consistency of approach throughout the school
- Ensure progression towards independence and an individual responsibility
- Ensure the needs of the individual are taken into account
- Ensure that parents/carers understand our expectations of them
- Improve the quality of learning experiences offered to the children
- Extend and support learning
- Provide opportunities for parents, children and the school to work in partnership
- Provide opportunities for children and parents to share learning experiences
- Encourage children to develop long term strategies for future needs
- Prepare Year Six children for the transition to the secondary phase of education

In accordance with the SEN Code of Practice 2014, Leasowes Primary School promotes the inclusion of all pupils and is accredited with full Dyslexia Friendly status. Staff are trained to support all learners and this is embedded across the school environment.

At Leasowes Primary School we promote positive mental health and wellbeing for all staff and pupils. Therefore, this policy should be read in conjunction with the Leasowes Mental Health and Wellbeing policy.

## Recommended Amounts

### Reading

At Leasowes, we believe that reading is fundamental to all learning. For a child to progress and to take on an enjoyment for reading, this needs to be completed regularly, ideally every night for about 15 minutes; reading a book that will both challenge the child and be appropriate to their age group. A reading diary is allocated to each child, in order to create communication between home and school on how their reading is progressing, to record how often they are reading, both at school and at home. For further information on this, please refer to the letter sent out annually by The English co-ordinator.

### Number Facts and Spellings

To be able to progress well in maths, it is essential for the child to have a good grasp of the basic number facts. This will start with counting forwards and backwards, progressing to knowing number bond facts, before moving on to knowing all times tables up to 12x12. Children who are able to rapidly recall their times tables are able to complete mental tasks more easily, estimate answers more accurately and are able to spot mistakes in written calculations. Additionally, learning weekly Phonics blends or spellings plays an essential role in improving the child's English work. Ideally these should be practised each night for a short period of time.

**NB** Although it is ideal for a child to read and spend time learning number facts and spellings each night, we do understand that families live busy lives, and that, for example on Brownies night or during a weekend away, it may be too difficult to complete.

### Supporting the Work in Class

Each week, children from years 1 - 5 will receive a piece of homework that supports their learning from that week in class in either English **or** maths. Children in year 6 will receive this at the least, but may receive one piece from English **and** maths, especially as the year progresses. However, for the spring term, a study club will be arranged for all year six children to attend, where additional homework can be completed with support from the teachers where needed.

**NB** As the children progress through the key stages, it is important for them to become more and more independent in their organisational skills to ensure that homework will be completed on time. For example, if a child is struggling with an aspect of a set piece of work, it is their responsibility to seek guidance from the teacher well in advance rather than leaving this to the 'last minute'.

### Topic Homework

At different times of the year, children may be given a project that links to curriculum work covered. For example, an art project or presentation linked to the Egyptians. While this is being completed, no English or maths homework will be given.

## Marking and Presentation

As the job of a teacher evolves, many more responsibilities are added to their role. To make the planning and marking of homework manageable, where appropriate, homework will also include self and peer assessment, completed alongside the teacher. All homework completed on time by the children will be acknowledged by the teacher.

Any homework set by the teacher is expected to be of the same standard of presentation as any work completed in school. If the presentation was not up to the standard expected, work may need to be repeated.

## A Consistent Approach

Feedback from parents was that, with more than one sibling in the school, it can be difficult to track when homework will be given out or needed to be handed in, in any given year group. With this in mind, giving out and handing in of homework will take place on the same day throughout the school. Homework will be given out on **Wednesdays**

Homework is to be handed in on **Mondays**

Although, as pointed out earlier in the policy, we at Leasowes understand that families lead busy lives, to ensure consistency and the same rules for all, homework is compulsory. Other than in extreme circumstances, all children are expected to make every effort to complete their homework

each week.

### Homework timetable

#### Reception:

- Reading daily if possible and recorded in the home/school reading record
- Phonics sounds to practice two times per week
- A 'home activity' and word card packs will be sent home from the spring term

#### KS1:

- Reading daily if possible and recorded in the home/school reading record
- One piece of English or Maths homework per week, unless undertaking topic work
- Topic project – Up to three times per year
- Please Note: Homework does not have to be a work sheet or written piece of work, it may include tasks like - find 5 items around the home that start with the sound ... Or visit the shops with parents and find how many items you can buy for one pound

#### KS2:

- Reading daily if possible and recorded in the home/school reading record
- Children should be encouraged to choose texts they enjoy and texts that will challenge their reading ability
- One piece of English or Maths homework per week, unless undertaking topic work
- Topic project – Up to three times per year
- Please Note: Homework does not have to be a work sheet or written piece of work, it may include tasks like – research on a given topic/person/area or speak to your family and find out their opinions in preparation for a topic on arguments.
- Children will be expected to write their homework in their home/school diary