

After our parent and children questionnaire we thought carefully about our homework policy and this reflects our dialogue with you.

Thankyou to the parent focus group who worked on actually creating the Top Tips.

## ThorpeWilloughby Primary School

### Homework Policy

#### General Statement

At Thorpe Willoughby Primary School we recognise that children who have spent a busy, productive day at school need time to relax and unwind at the end of the afternoon. We are also mindful of the importance of children keeping their minds and bodies healthy when not at school enjoying activities such as football, dancing, gymnastics and music.

We also recognise the benefits of homework over the primary years as it helps our children to become independent learners and gives them the opportunity to practice and refine the skills that they have learnt at school.

#### The purpose of homework

Homework should:

- ✚ Ensure that children make the best possible progress and grow as confident, independent learners;
- ✚ To promote cooperation between home and school in supporting each child's learning;
- ✚ Promote a positive attitude to learning if parents / carers show an interest and enjoy working with their children;
- ✚ Give children an opportunity to use resources available at home to deepen or extend their learning.
- ✚ Give our children the opportunity to practice and reinforce skills which have been taught at school.
- ✚ Be relevant and appropriate to the work children are doing in school.
- ✚ Prepare our children for the demands and expectations of future phases of education.
- ✚ To help our children develop good work habits for the future.

#### Role of Parents and carers

- ✚ To provide a peaceful and suitable place in which homework can be carried out.
- ✚ To support the school by showing that homework is valued and explain its value in helping their children make progress.
- ✚ To encourage and give praise for completed homework.
- ✚ To check that deadlines are met.
- ✚ Complete reading records /homework diaries as appropriate.
- ✚ Contact your child's class teacher if there is a question about homework.

### Types of homework

- ✚ Children and staff regard homework as an integral part of the curriculum - it is planned and prepared alongside all other programmes of learning.
- ✚ We set a variety of homework tasks. These are detailed in Appendix A.
- ✚ We recognise that children have individual learning styles, which means that some tasks can be completed in a variety of ways, whilst others demand a particular approach.
- ✚ Where appropriate, homework tasks may be modified according to your child's needs e.g. spelling and Mathematic tasks.

### Amount of homework

- ✚ As they move through the school, we increase the amount of homework that we give the children. In the Infants we expect children to spend approximately 1 hour a week doing homework. This may well include reading or sharing a book with a parent or carer. We expect children in years 3 and 4 to spend 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  hours a week on homework and children in years 5 and 6 - 2 hours a week.
- ✚ Each homework should take no longer than 30 minutes on average. We are delighted if some children wish to spend longer than this, however, if your child is regularly taking much longer than the guideline amount of time and is struggling to complete tasks, please call into school to arrange a time to discuss with your child's class teacher.
- ✚ All EYFS and KS1 homework goes home on a Friday. Book bags and reading books come into school every day. At KS2 each class has a homework timetable and this will be sent home in the first week of term in September. This will help parents and carers to support their child with planning their study time. Each timetable will be available on the school web site.

### Monitoring

Both parents and teachers play a crucial role in monitoring homework. Parents and carers are asked to check that homework has been given and then completed. Home reading tasks are vital to our children's educational development and the support of parents is very important. This can vary from hearing your child read, encouraging your child to enjoy a book by personal quiet reading or discussing a book with your child. Top tips can be found in each reading record.

Teachers will make sure that homework is given at the correct time and recorded accurately. We will try and give clear instructions that can be translated by their parents.

Teachers are responsible for monitoring their children's homework.

Homework is always acknowledged, marked or used in class to support learning. For example, whereas a Maths' task may be marked according to the school marking policy, a topic research task may be shared in the lesson or used as part of a group activity. Homework completed well is acknowledged and praised. There may be issues arising from the work, which the teacher will follow up in lesson time.

#### What happens when children do not complete homework?

We know that there are times when life is very busy and children occasionally do not complete their homework. If your child has not been able to complete the homework in the time set - please let us know and we will try and find a way of helping your child complete it.

As a general rule, if homework is not returned in Foundation Stage and KS1 and Year 3, teachers will have a chat with parents about this.

As children move through KS2 they become more independent in their learning and start to prepare for the next phase of education. The practice of work learnt in school is still paramount but there will be increasing opportunities to show initiative. Children who do not complete their homework may be expected to complete their task during some of lunchtime or to miss some of *Golden Time*.

If children do not complete their homework frequently we will contact parents / carers to find a solution.

Parents who are worried in any way about homework are warmly encouraged to come into school and discuss this.