

## Introduction

It became the statutory duty of schools to set homework from September 1999.

Expectations about homework vary according to the age and ability of the child. Children will be provided with additional opportunities to reflect upon and practice skills acquired in school and we hope parents will be supportive in aiding this development.

## The Purpose of Homework

- Developing an effective partnership between the school, parent(s) and guardian(s) in supporting the learning of that which takes place in school;
- Consolidating and reinforcing skills and understanding;
- Extending school learning, for example through additional reading; and activities related to the curriculum;
- Encouraging pupils as they get older to develop the confidence and self-discipline needed to study on their own, and preparing them for the requirements of secondary education.

## Amount of Homework

The precise amount of time set for homework is less important than the intrinsic value of the tasks.

Based on (Department for Education) guidelines we at Pottery School recommend the following time allocations **per day**:

Key Stage	Year	Reading or Other Activities
EYFS	Reception	10 Minutes
Key Stage 1	Year One	10 Minutes
Key Stage 1	Year Two	15 Minutes
Key Stage 2	Year Three	20 Minutes
Key Stage 2	Year Four	20 Minutes
Key Stage 2	Year Five	30 Minutes
Key Stage 2	Year Six	30 Minutes

NB. If a child is needing to consistently spend more than the recommended time or much less in completing tasks then the parent/carer needs to speak to the class teacher in the first instance to ensure that the task is matched to the needs of the child.

## **Type of Homework**

The main focus of homework at Pottery School will be on developing and consolidating key skills.

**Regular reading is vital** particularly for younger pupils (age 4 to 9). Homework should largely consist of regular reading with parent(s) and guardian(s), sharing books together. Fluent readers (year 5 /6) should be encouraged to read on their own for at least 10-20 minutes each day.

Pupils will be set homework tasks in a regular pattern each week and the timetable for homework can be found in homework books/logs and on our website 'class page' : [www.pottery.derbyshire.sch.uk](http://www.pottery.derbyshire.sch.uk)

The following outlines the type of homework tasks given:

### ***Reception***

1. Reading (at least 4 times a week)
2. Learning key words ( to read and later in the year to spell)
3. Games to develop literacy and numeracy
4. Letter formation / Handwriting tasks

### ***Years 1 and 2 (Infants)***

We ask that parents support their children with:

1. Reading (at least 4 times a week)
2. Learning Spellings
3. Number bonds and number tasks to 10 / 20
4. Multiplication tables by 2 / 5 / 10 as ready and the associated division facts.

### ***Years 3, 4 (Juniors)***

We ask that parents support their children with:

1. Reading (at least 3 times weekly, more often if your child is 'struggling')
2. Learning Spellings
3. Multiplication tables Y3 should know (2, 3, 4, 5, 8 and 10 with associated division facts). By the end of Y4 children should know all tables up to 12 x 12, and the associated division facts.

### ***Year 5, 6 (Juniors)***

We ask that parents support their children with:

1. Reading including personal research (3 times weekly, more often if your child is 'struggling')
2. Spelling and language tasks
3. Multiplication up to  $12 \times 12$  where children still struggling for instant recall and associated division facts.
4. Revision for statutory tests in reading, spelling, grammar and mathematics. The tests are held in May.

### **Homework Incentive Scheme**

Children have a homework record on which the teacher initials if a 'good effort' has been made towards homework that week (and have read regularly). When children are ill for more than 2 days in a week homework may be 'signed off' by the teacher.

10 weeks earns the child a bronze certificate.

A further 8 weeks earns the child a silver certificate.

A further 7 weeks earns the child a gold certificate.

A further 6 weeks earns the child a platinum certificate (indicating 31 consistent weeks of homework).

Any child earning platinum is awarded a medal at the final awards assembly (the ribbon in the colour of their house). The medals also run in order (year one being bronze, year two silver etc)

With the incentive scheme being 31 of the 39 weeks of school it should be possible for children to still reach the platinum stage of the scheme even if they have been absent due to illness.

### **Special Educational Needs**

Setting the right type and amount of homework for pupils with special educational needs is recognised as being very important. Some pupils will benefit from specific tasks that link to Individual Education Plans (I.E.P.s) instead of 'normal homework' e.g. 'Toe by Toe' or 'Power of Two.' The homework record should then be signed off in the normal way.

## **How Homework Will be Planned and Co-ordinated so that Demands on Pupils and Teachers are Balanced and Manageable**

- The Headteacher and class teacher are responsible for ensuring that the demands of homework are manageable for pupils and parent(s) / guardian(s) on a day to day basis. The responsibility of setting homework tasks and ensuring they match the needs of children is that of the class teacher.
- Regular patterns of homework will be set for pupils. Parent(s) / guardian(s) will be advised of these in the early part of the autumn term and guidance can be found on the school website.
- Teachers will allow **a week for homework to be completed**. This strategy will allow sufficient time for information to be collected or to take account of any after school activities pupils may be doing. Focussed tasks may be over an extended period of time e.g. a half term.
- Homework demands on pupils will be monitored by class teachers so that they are as even and balanced as possible.
- A Friday lunchtime homework club will be provided for junior children 12.30 - 1.00pm, staffed by a teaching assistant (funding allowing).

### **Monitoring and Evaluating**

The efficiency and effectiveness of this Pottery Homework policy will be monitored and evaluated by class teachers.

Pottery School Homework policy will be reviewed on a regular basis, any amendments presented to the Governing Body.

Footnote: where this policy says parent/sand guardians this also applies to 'carers.'