

Al-Ashraf Primary School



HOMEWORK GUIDELINES



Strengthening the bond
between home and school.

All staff at Al-Ashraf Primary School are fully committed to extending the learning and achievement of all their pupils.

WHY WE SET HOMEWORK

At Al-Ashraf Primary School we believe that homework can:

- ◆ Develop and enhance an effective partnership between school and parents. Research indicates that when children, teachers and parents take homework seriously, children's work improves and standards are raised.
- ◆ Develop valuable skills and positive attitudes to learning such as perseverance, self discipline and pride.
- ◆ Provide an opportunity for the parents to see what their child is learning in class.
- ◆ Provide children with opportunities to reach higher levels of attainment and to make greater progress.
- ◆ Enhance and extend children's learning.
- ◆ Consolidate and reinforce skills of work done in the classroom.
- ◆ Encourage independent learning.
- ◆ Prepare children for the demands of secondary school.

At Al-Ashraf Primary School we believe that homework is an opportunity to extend school activities at home, to involve parents in their children's learning and to develop work habits which will prepare children for secondary school.

Year 3

- ◆ All the homework will supplement what has been learnt in the class that week
- ◆ Spellings will be issued on a Monday to be tested the following Monday.
- ◆ Homework is set on a Friday and is due in the following Monday.
- ◆ There will usually be one literacy and one Numeracy sheet to complete over the weekend to consolidate learning in class.
- ◆ If a History research project is set then no additional literacy or Numeracy homework will be given.
- ◆ Children are also expected to read their reading book at home for 5-10 minutes per night.

Year 4

- ◆ During the weekdays pupils should practise reading their school book and develop their comprehension.
- ◆ Pupils should practise their weekly spellings. They have yellow books to write out their spellings in.
- ◆ Over the weekends the children will have a 1 hour homework activity; this will be set on the Wednesday and is due in on the following Monday. This will be half an hour each of maths literacy linked to the main weekly teaching objective.
- ◆ Children will be set a science activity sheet related to the following terms work to complete in addition to weekend work.
- ◆ During term 1, 3 and 5 a research project will be given related to the current history topic. Children are expected to submit work equivalent of 1 hour per week for the duration of the topic.
- ◆ Children will be relieved of the Numeracy and literacy weekend work so children can concentrate their efforts on topic work.

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Year 1

- ◆ During the week days, pupils should practise reading their given stage book. Pupils should also practise reading and writing out their weekly spellings.
- ◆ On weekends children are given a 30 minutes homework activity:
Maths; Linked to a main weekly teach objective which will be set.
Literacy; Children should work on sentence writing using words from spellings book, unless specific literacy homework is set.
- ◆ During the holidays more lengthy homework activities sent home i.e. a topic based project, plus literacy and Numeracy tasks.

Children have a week to complete homework from the day it is set.

Year 2

- ◆ Homework will usually consist of either: a maths activity, a science or any other non-core subject and a set of spellings to be learnt based on the sounds being learnt that week.
- ◆ Every other week a worksheet will be given to support the spellings.
- ◆ Homework is administered on a Thursday and is expected in for marking the following Tuesday.
- ◆ The completion of homework is monitored and homework not given in or completed by the set date is dealt with in a suitable manner,
- ◆ To encourage children to complete their homework regularly and on time, the class teacher awards stickers, stamps and lass points.
- ◆ If parents find that their child has struggled with any of the homework, a note may be left in the folder for the teacher to address.

HOW PARENTS CAN HELP

- ◆ Establish clear routines around homework.
- ◆ Encourage your child to work at their own pace.
- ◆ Provide time and a quiet place for work to be completed. Homework done in a rush at the last minute is rarely done well.
- ◆ Work alongside your child to help with spellings, handwriting, punctuation, etc.
- ◆ Allow your child to work independently and **Do Not** be tempted to do the work for your child as this will misinform the teacher of the ability of your child and prevent them from getting any further help.
- ◆ Offer advice and guidance but **Do Not** complete work that children should be doing unaided.
- ◆ Please inform the teacher if the child struggles with any aspect of their homework as this will help the teacher understand what needs to be further reinforced.
- ◆ Make sure the work is completed to the best of the child's ability.
- ◆ Build in rewards or incentives to use with children.
- ◆ Encourage your children and praise them during their homework.

If any child is spending far more than the allocated time on their homework then please consult their class teacher.

HOW THE SCHOOL CAN HELP PARENTS

There will be parents who want to help their children but who are unsure whether they are using the right methods. When in doubt ask the teacher!!

Workshops have been arranged to support parents in both Literacy and Numeracy.

Further workshops will also be arranged to help parents with their own skills.

WHAT IS EXPECTED OF EACH YEAR

Time allocation.

These recommended times are taken from the DfEE (Department for Education and Employment) publication entitled: 'Homework Guidelines for Primary and Secondary Schools'.

Reception	30 minutes per week.
Years 1 and 2	1 hour per week.
Years 3 and 4	1.5 hours per week.
Year 5	2 hours per week.
Year 6	2.5 hours per week.

This requirement follows the recommended national guidelines.

HOMework EXPECTATIONS

Reception

- ◆ Although no formal homework is set at this stage, parents are requested to support their child's reading, especially though the developmental stages.
- ◆ At first pupils will be issued with illustration only books. Parents should encourage their child to describe what is happening in the story. During this time the ate learning the letter sounds using Jolly phonics and the character names for the Oxford Reading Tree which are sent home on a word ring.
- ◆ Once the pupils have a good grasp of the letter sounds and character names the first books of the reading scheme (with words) are sent home. Parents should read these books with their child at least twice a week.
- ◆ When the child has reached Stage 2 an extra book is sent home twice a week which is only read at home.
- ◆ Work is set during the holidays, children are given individual files.
Literacy work; Focusing on sounds learnt during term time and correct letter formation.
Numeracy work; Based on work covered during term time.