HOMEWORK POLICY

Introduction

Homework is anything that children do outside the normal school day, which contributes to their learning in response to guidance from the school. Homework encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents to support children's learning. For example, a parent who spends quality time reading a story to their child before bedtime is helping with homework.

Aims and Objectives

The aims and objectives of homework are:

- to enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development;
- to help pupils develop the skills of an independent learner;
- to promote a partnership between home and school in supporting each child's learning;
- to promote dialogue about learning between pupil and parent/carer;
- to enable all aspects of the curriculum to be covered in sufficient depth;
- to provide educational experiences not possible in school;
- to consolidate and reinforce learning completed in school and to allow children to practice skills taught in lessons
- to help children develop good work habits for the future.

Types of Homework

- We set a variety of homework activities that should be enjoyable and purposeful.
- We expect homework to be completed routinely each week. Children will be expected to consolidate and reinforce learning done in school through practice at home. Homework will be **set each Friday and children will be expected to return their homework into school by the following Wednesday.**

Reception

- Daily homework will include practising of sounds and words to support reading skills.
- Children can choose a weekly library book that they read and share for pleasure with their family.
- Children will also be asked regularly to practise forming their letters correctly to support their writing.
- In Reception children will be expected to complete one piece of homework each week. This will be age-related to develop an area of learning within the foundation stage

Key Stage 1

- Children will read a Little Wandle book in class, which will be sent home to practise fluency. This will usually start in the fourth week of school and will usually be on Fridays.
- Children will be asked to learn additional phonics, spelling patterns or mathematical times tables/number facts on a needs basis
- Children will be expected to read daily with a member of their family until children have developed fluency. **This is essential.** Children will also be expected to choose a book for pleasure to read at home.
- One piece of maths homework will be set per week based on what children have been learning in class – this will focus on consolidation and not new learning.

- Occasional homework activities will be set related to work that children are doing within school. Children may be asked to talk about a topic at home prior to studying it in school. For example, in the history topic on toys, we ask children to find out what toys were popular when their grandparents were young and if possible, bring examples into school to show their peers. At times, we also ask children to find and collect things that we are able to use in lessons.

Key Stage 2

- There is an expectation that children practise times tables on Times Tables Rock Stars and read their reading and library books daily
- One piece of maths homework will be set per week based on what children have been learning in class – this will focus on consolidation and not new learning.
- In years 3 and 4, children will be expected to learn spellings and times tables on a weekly basis.
- In years 5 and 6, as the year progresses so will the homework. This additional work will steadily prepare children for SATS and for when they attend year 7 at senior school. Homework is a means of helping the children to revise for examinations, as well as to ensure that prior learning has been understood.

Feedback on Children's Homework

Teachers should always acknowledge children's homework and it is expected that children will be given feedback. It should be given in a way that acknowledges their efforts. This may not always happen through written comments from the teacher. Sometimes, work will be discussed in lessons through sharing work as a class, self-marking or peer assessment. Homework can be 'shared with a friend' in class. High quality work should be praised with Dojo points for children's effort in completing homework.

Pupils with Special Educational Needs

We set homework for all children as a normal part of school life. At St John's, we carefully consider the needs of individual children and think about how they can best work with parents and carers to support their learning. This will include their personal and social development. We ensure that all tasks set are appropriate to the ability of the child. If a child has additional needs, we endeavour to adapt any task set, so that all children can contribute in a positive way. When setting homework to pupils who are named on the register of special needs, we refer to the Individual Support Plans. Teachers must ensure that children with special needs are given high quality homework tasks. To ensure this, teachers may liaise with the SENCO to make sure the level is right.

The Role of Parents

Parents have a vital role to play in their child's education and homework is an important part of this process. We ask parents to encourage their child to complete the homework tasks that are set. We invite them to help their child and provide them with the sort of environment that allows children to do their best. Parents can support their child by providing a good working space at home, taking their child to visit the library regularly and by discussing the work that their child is doing.

Useful websites that the school recommends for parents to support their child at home are:

English websites:

- Support with phonics- https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/
- Free access to some e-books - https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/find-a-book/library-page/
  List of suitable books for your child's age- https://www.thereaderteacher.com/
- Improving your child's English including writing and grammar-https://uk.ixl.com/english
- Supporting your child's creative writing at home-https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/kids-activities/creative-writing/ or https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/253gFvjShztjzRprffwVvKq/bbc-bitesize-creative-writing-resources
- Our local library has lots of great resources Wednesbury Library - Library in WEDNESBURY, Sandwell - Visit Sandwell

Maths websites:

- https://topmarks.co.uk
- https://play.ttrockstars.com
- Primary Maths Challenge past papers (challenging) - Primary Maths Challenge - PMC Past Papers

If parents have any problems or questions about homework, they should firstly contact the child's class teacher.

Monitoring and Review

It is the responsibility of our governing body to agree and then monitor the school homework policy. This is done by the committee of the governing body that deals with curriculum issues. Our governing body may, at any time, request from our headteacher a report on the way homework is organised in our school.