



Ditton Infant School

Teaching and Learning

Home Learning Policy

April 2019

#### **Shared Vision**

- A happy, positive and inclusive school where communication is highly valued, and everyone has a voice.
- A caring and supportive school where children are safe.
- An exciting school, where learning is irresistible.
- An ambitious school focused on high expectations of all pupils' learning and achievements.

The Home Learning Policy has been reviewed in the light of changes to the curriculum and the manner of the delivery of that curriculum enhancing the "deeper learning"/mastery within school.

#### **1 Introduction:**

Home learning is anything children do outside the normal school day that contributes to their learning, in response to guidance from the school. Home learning encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents/carers to support the children's learning. For example, parents or carers who spend time reading stories to their children before bedtime are helping with home learning.

#### **2 Rationale for home learning**

- We believe home learning is an important part of a child's education and can add much to a child's development.
- We see home learning as an important example of cooperation between teachers and parents/carers. One of the aims of our teaching is for children to develop as independent learners, and we believe that learning at home is one of the main ways in which children can acquire the skill of independent learning.
- Home learning can play a positive role in developing a child's characteristics of learning. However, we also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development. Whilst home learning is a necessity, it

should not prevent children from taking part in the activities of various out-of-school clubs and of other organisations that play an important part in the lives of our pupils. We are aware that children spend more time at home than at school, and we believe that they develop their interests and skills to the full only when parents/carers encourage them to make maximum use of the opportunities available outside school.

### **3. Aims and Objectives**

The aim of home learning is to;

- help children develop good learning characteristics for the future
- help pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development
- help pupils to develop the skills of an independent learner
- promote co-operation between home and school in supporting every child's learning
- enable some aspects of the curriculum to be further explored independently
- where appropriate, provide educational experiences not possible in school
- consolidate and reinforce the learning done in school and allow children additional time to practise the skills taught in lessons

### **4. Types of home learning**

Teachers regard home learning as an integral part of the curriculum - it is planned and prepared alongside all other programmes of learning.

Teachers will alert parents to home learning via a weekly home learning letter at the end of each week and any home learning is generally to be completed by the following Thursday.

#### Weekly Home Learning

##### Reception Classes

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|---------|---|
| Reading | Short, daily reading sessions with an adult (at least 3x a week). Children are able to change their book for enjoyment (picture/story book) daily and their reading book any day of the week but someone has to sign it to show the child has read twice at home. Reading to your child can be counted and is just as valuable as children reading to an adult. We would like children to read at least two new books a week. |
| Phonics | Teachers will write the phonics to be practised on their class home learning letters each week.   |
| Maths   | Teachers will inform parents what learning has been covered over the week   |

One piece of home learning is then set, and this could be linked to maths, literacy, handwriting or phonics.

Children record homework in their busy book. They are encouraged to use 1 double page a week. The class share busy books at snack time or at home time and the teachers add a sticker to the work to show that it has been shared. Parents are also encouraged to upload homework and additional family activities to the ILD.

### Years 1 and 2

**Reading** Short, frequent reading sessions (at least 3x a week)- children able to change their books as required. Reading to your child can be counted and is just as valuable as children reading to an adult.

**Phonics** Teachers will write the phonics to be practised on the weekly phonics letter as well as any tricky words being taught each week.

**Spellings-Yr2** 1\* and 2\* spellings are sent home for children to learn. There is a weekly spelling test on a Friday.

**Maths** Children will be set either a paper based or practical maths activity. Mathematics activities linked to class learning may also be set each week which will give children additional practise.

There may sometimes also be an optional extra activity for children.

Children record homework in their busy book and any home learning is acknowledged with a sticker. Some examples are shared on our 'wow work or 'busy bee' walls in the classroom as well as all children sharing them on a Friday afternoon with the class.

## **5 Quality of home learning**

As they move through the school, an increase in the complexity of the home learning that we give the children should be evident. We expect children by the end of Key Stage 1 to spend approximately 20 minutes an evening on home activities, and this will include reading with a parent.

## **6 Inclusion and home learning**

We set home learning for all children as a normal part of school life. We will endeavour to ensure that all tasks set are appropriate to the ability of the child, and we endeavour to adapt any task set so that all children can contribute in a positive way.

## **7 The role of parents and carers**

Parents and carers have a vital role to play in their child's education, and home learning can be an important part of this process. We ask parents and carers to encourage their child to carry out the home learning tasks that are set; helping their children as and when they feel it to be necessary, and providing them with the sort of environment that allows children to do their best. Parents and carers can support their child by providing a good working space at home, by enabling their child to visit the library regularly, and by discussing the work that their child is doing.

Ideally parents should read with their children every day to help them develop a love of books and stories and help them to grow in confidence. We ask parents and carers to sign their child's Contact Book to show that they have heard their child read and discussed their books with them.

If parents and carers have any questions about home learning, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher. Finally, if they wish to make a complaint about the school home learning policy, or the way in which it is implemented, parents or carers should contact the Headteacher.

## **8 Use of ICT**

A copy of the school's Online Safety policy is available from the school office and may also be found on the school website. The child's safety is paramount in all matters regarding use of the internet and we advise parents and carers to always supervise their child's access to the internet.

The use of ICT and the internet has made a significant contribution to the amount of reference material available at home, and the ease and speed with which it can be accessed. However, our teachers expect their pupils to produce their own work, perhaps by editing something they have found, or by expressing it in their own words. The children are not achieving anything worthwhile by copying, pasting and printing out something that has been written by somebody else.

There are many websites containing highly educational material which can have a powerful effect on children's learning.

## **9 Monitoring and review**

It is the responsibility of our Governing Body to agree and then monitor the school's Home Learning Policy. This will be reviewed annually.