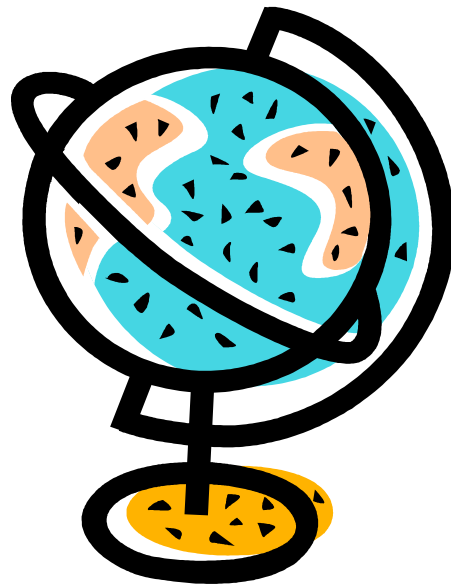


Supporting Learning at Home



Homework - a Guide for Parents

1. What is homework?

Homework at Maynards Green school refers to any work or activity which pupils are encouraged to do outside lesson times with either parents/carers or independently.

2. The purpose of homework

- to extend school learning, for example, through additional reading
- to consolidate and reinforce skills in literacy and numeracy
- to exploit resources for learning, of all kinds, at home
- to encourage pupils to develop the skills necessary to study on their own

3. Type and amount of homework

Regular reading is considered to be an important aspect of homework. For children in Key Stage 1 (Reception and Years 1 and 2) homework will largely consist of regular reading with parents and carers and looking at books together. The DCSF guidelines suggest that all primary school age children should either read to their parents or carers, listen to their parents or carers read, or, if they are fluent readers, read on their own for at least 10 to 20 minutes a day. It suggests that this reading may be done in the context of homework, for example a six year old reading a school reading book to a parent or a ten year old reading a reference book for a history project. Or, it may be done separately, eg parents reading stories to children or children reading out signs or notices on the way to school.

Other homework tasks may include a maths or literacy activity, a piece of topic research or, for the older children, an exciting and creative art, DT, science or humanities project. Whatever the task, our aim is to make it motivating and enjoyable and hopefully involve the whole family!

The precise amount of time spent on homework is much less important than the quality of tasks set. However, the amount of homework (including reading) which will be set for children at Maynards Green School follows Government guidelines and, in broad terms, is set out below.

- Yr R & Yr 1 up to 1 hr each week
- Yr 2 & Yr 3 1 to 1.5 hrs each week
- Yr 4 & Yr 5 1.5 to 2 hrs each week
- Yr 6 2 to 2.5 hrs each week

In KS1, parents will be notified at the beginning of each term what the home tasks will be. Children in KS2 will have a Homework Folder which they will bring home with them each week. Homework tasks will be detailed inside the folder and parents will have the opportunity to feedback to teachers about the tasks set.

There may be times when homework tasks are not set (eg if a class teacher is away from school) but if parents are in any doubt, they are encouraged to speak to their child's class teacher as soon as it is possible to do so.

4. Role of parent/carer in supporting children

We would encourage parents and carers to:

- provide a reasonably peaceful, suitable place in which children can do their homework - alone or, more often for younger children, together with an adult;
- ensure children have appropriate equipment (eg) pencil, rubber, sharpener, ruler
- make it clear to children that they value homework;
- become actively involved in joint homework activities with children;
- encourage children and praise them when they have completed homework.
- be prepared to take a few minutes to read, explain and carefully demonstrate if a child appears confused or lacking in understanding as to what a homework task may be expecting.

5. Marking of Homework and feedback

Where homework is done together with adults, it is hoped that children will receive immediate feedback on what they are doing. In the case of work they do on their own pupils will receive feedback through:-

- (i) Classwork (eg) class or small group discussion and feedback on work completed or
- (ii) Assessments (eg) spellings or
- (iii) Pupils' own assessment and marking (eg) whole class debate with teacher and pupils all "marking" their own work or
- (iv) Comments from teachers (eg) on lengthy written assignments.

Providing written feedback is, of course, demanding on teachers' time. "Blanket" marking is a system not used at Maynards Green school (eg) whereby a piece of work is marked in its totality including spelling, grammar, punctuation, presentation etc. Marking is more focused and a child's piece of work will be marked against the learning intentions and objectives of any given task set.

Where parents have carried out activities with children, teachers will be interested in feedback from them. Parents are invited to comment on the homework activity sheets and/or write comments in children's Reading Record Books.

Thank you for taking the time to read this document. Should you have any queries about your child's homework please speak to your child's class teacher in the first instance.