

Stoke Damerel Primary Academy



Homework Policy

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Home and Virtual Learning Coordinator

We define homework as any activity that pupils undertake outside of school lesson time, either on their own or with the support of family members. At Stoke Damerel Primary Academy, we have a strong commitment to parental involvement and see homework as one way of developing this partnership.

Why give homework?

- It can inform parents about work going on in class;
- It can further stimulate enthusiasm for learning;
- It takes advantage of the home environment and resources and the chance for some one-to-one adult time;
- It can be a great source for gathering topic information to share with all the children;
- It is a great opportunity to rehearse key skills such as times tables, doubling facts, addition sums, spellings, handwriting and other key facts;
- It helps to foster good habits of organization and self-discipline in preparation for the demands of Secondary School.

Homework at our school

Homework at Stoke Damerel Primary Academy is split into two parts:

- Core weekly homework
- Termly wider homework

This is to promote the importance of regular practise of the core skills of Reading, Spelling, Times Tables and Mathematics, while giving every child the chance to extend their International Primary Curriculum (I.P.C) learning and take pride in their efforts amongst peers.

Whilst we support all of the above key principles, Stoke Damerel Primary Academy is not a school at which homework dominates home and school life. We accept that not every activity will capture children and parents' imagination and that weekends can sometimes be busy. We believe that homework should be enjoyable and manageable for all concerned and that if it becomes a chore/burden/source of conflict it ceases to be a constructive aspect of teaching and learning.

We specify the weekly expectations for children in each year group below, and we encourage children and families to set their own routines to be able to complete these. Individual teachers are happy to give advice.

Year group overviews for homework

Foundation

Daily reading linked to Read Write Inc books. Letter and Number formation tasks, and a mathematically linked understanding task per week. ReadingEggs and Fast Phonics are available to parents.

Year 1

Daily reading linked to Read Write Inc books. 2 Mathletics tasks set per week, 10 weekly spelling words and TimesTables Rockstars practise. 1 ReadingEggs activity should be accessed per week.

Year 2

Daily reading of a reading book. 1 Reading Eggspress 'library book' or comprehension task and 2 Mathletics tasks set per week, 10 weekly spelling words and TimesTables Rockstars practise.

Year 3

Daily reading of a reading book. 1 Reading Eggspress 'library book' or comprehension task and 2 Mathletics tasks set per week, 10 weekly spelling words with 5 revisited words and TimesTables Rockstars practise.

Year 4

Daily reading of a reading book. 1 Reading Eggspress 'library book' or comprehension task and 3 Mathletics tasks set per week, 10 weekly spelling words with 5 revisited words and TimesTables Rockstars practise.

Year 5

Daily reading of a reading book. 1 Reading Eggspress 'library book' or comprehension task and 3 Mathletics tasks set per week, 10 weekly spelling words with 10 revisited words and TimesTables Rockstars practise.

Year 6

Daily reading of a reading book. 1 SATs revision task or Reading Eggspress 'library book' or Reading Eggspress comprehension task will be set per week. 3 Mathletics tasks set per week, 10 weekly spelling words with 10 revisited words and TimesTables Rockstars practise.

In the few weeks prior to SAT tests, the Year 6 children will be given additional revision work.

Our Core Homework routines and expectations

All classes set Core Homework on a Friday. If it is a piece that needs handing in, it is expected to be returned by the following Friday.

All children have access to an appropriate level reading book from their Class Library. These books will be changed once the child has completed the book or with class teacher consultation. At Stoke Damerel Primary Academy, we encourage all children to read for at least 20 minutes every day and to record this with an adult in their Reading Record so that they can be awarded stars on their reading reward bookmarks in school.

Spelling homework will be sent home every Friday, after the children have been taught the focused spelling rule during the week. The children will then be tested on them each week and class teachers will record their scores.

Mathletics and Reading Eggs are online platforms used to set tasks linked to your child's in-school learning. Assignments will be set every Friday, to be completed by the end of the following week.

Children in KS1 and KS2 have an account on TimesTables Rockstars and can participate in games and tournaments to practise their age appropriate tables. These are available at all times, and we encourage all children to practise at least once a week.

The tasks set will not always need to be handed in; there are other ways in which teachers will respond or give feedback, for example, sharing results in class discussion, putting work onto a display or transferring work into class books.

Our Wider Homework routines and expectations

Each half term, class teachers will send home a variety of tasks linked to the next I.P.C unit that can be completed at any point over the topic.

These tasks will reflect a range of skills, interests and mediums to use. We encourage all children to attempt a variety of projects over their journey through the school, with the intention of helping to shape the ambitions for every child's future.

Class teachers will provide opportunities for children to share their homework each Friday, where they will also offer feedback and award Dojo points for their effort.

We encourage creativity with all projects and methods for sharing.

You could (but are not limited to):

- Bring a physical element to school to share
- Present a summary of your project
- Share photos/videos of your project (email in to class teacher)
- Create a digital element and share with the class teacher

Rewarding effort

We will reward Core Homework in the following ways:

- Athletics Champion of the week
- TimesTables Rockstars Class of the week
- Individual reading bookmarks and certificates

We will reward Wider Homework in the following ways:

- 2 Dojo points for each piece completed
- Additional dojo points awarded for outstanding effort / quality.

We hope the children are motivated by positive incentives and by the tasks themselves; class teachers will monitor homework through Athletics, ReadingEggs and individual Reading Records and if a child consistently fails to complete and return tasks, this is discussed with the child and their parents.

Further notes

It is our policy not to give homework over the holidays and half term breaks. The exception will be where the parent and teacher agree extra work would be beneficial.

Our additional needs teaching assistants may send specific tasks home to support the learning of the children they support. Again, this will be discussed with parents.

If you take holiday during term-time, something we actively discourage, parents may not request work from the teacher. We suggest that parents organize a holiday diary.

What to do if you have concerns

If you find the homework inappropriate for your child, if they lack interest, if it becomes a battleground or if you are concerned that homework is given inconsistently please talk with your child's teacher in the first instance.

If you still have concerns, please talk with **James Allington**, the Home and Virtual Learning Coordinator.