

HOMEWORK POLICY 2022



Our school is a Christian community in which pupils, staff, parents, governors and parishioners are working together, within a safe and stimulating learning environment, to achieve education of the highest possible quality, in order to prepare pupils to meet the challenge of their futures.

We celebrate the value of each child and set high expectations for them in our endeavour to sustain and develop their gifts and talents.

Date Adopted	
Signed (Governors)	
Signed (Headteacher)	
Date for review	

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Introduction

Learning at home is an essential part of good education. Regular homework is important, since it gives pupils the opportunity to take their learning beyond the classroom. It also encourages children to become confident and independent in their learning, which will help throughout their time at school and, later, in adult life.

Homework activities are an important part of the home/school partnership.

Our homework policy reflects the family orientated ethos of the school. We actively encourage children to gain as many experiences as possible during their time at primary school in order to ensure that they are building non-academic skills such as leadership, enquiry, curiosity and resilience as well as academic skills. This is why we have a focus on gaining experiences rather than completing additional school work for homework tasks. As a school we believe that this contributes to the whole child.

The homework policy is designed:

1. To ensure consistency of approach throughout the school.
2. To ensure progression towards independence and individual responsibility.
3. To ensure parents/carers have a clear understanding about expectations for themselves and the pupils.
4. To support and extend learning beyond the classroom.
5. To provide opportunities for parents and pupils to work in partnership and enjoy learning experiences.

Time allocation for Homework

Children will have completed a long day at school and should not be spending long periods completing homework. For children learning spellings and times tables there should be no more than 10 minutes practise each day for each area. Some children find a less formal approach to learning these e.g. singing times table songs on a journey a more effective way of learning.

Reading for all children should be completed every day. For younger children parents should listen to or read to their child for 10 mins each day. For older children they should be encouraged to read for at least 10 mins each day. Occasionally the older children still enjoy being read to and this should be encouraged.

For the experiences and activities given at the beginning of each term. These are intended to be enjoyed and have no time allocation allotted to them. If the children are not able to complete all of the activities this is not an issue.

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Reception

In Reception class children will be introduced to reading and phonic activities. Homework in this year group is not compulsory and children should not be forced to complete homework activities. Children should enjoy their learning and we try to set homework that they will enjoy.

Phonics

During the year Reception children will bring home letters and letter sounds to practise and make words from. These resources are for you to use with your child to help your child to become more confident in their understanding of the sounds and letters they are working on.

Reading

During the year, when your child is ready, they will bring a reading book home. This is for you to share with your child. A reading workshop will take place in the Autumn term to help you understand the different ways you can help your child learn to read.

Experiences and activities

Each term your child will bring a list home of activities and experiences to work through during the term. These are designed to broaden your child's experiences and they should be enjoyable and promote all areas of the curriculum. Each term the class teacher will send the list out (a sample is available in the appendix), when it should be completed and how children should record their experiences and activities. The list is designed to be enjoyed in partnership with close and extended family however homework, as stated previously, is not compulsory for this age group.

KS1 Homework – Literacy

KS1 follow phonics, spelling and reading homework for literacy. This may be presented in a variety of ways.

Phonics

Year 1 children will bring home sounds and letters to practise and make words from.
Year 2 children will bring spellings home to practise. The test is generally on a Friday.

Reading

KS1 children will bring home a reading book and this will sometimes be accompanied by activities to complete.

Times Tables

Children will bring home times tables to learn by year 2. These will be tested during the week.

Experiences and activities

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Other work

The school website has a full list of objectives children must complete each year in reading, writing and maths. If parents wish to complete further homework for their children this can be used as a guide. However

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the school does not provide work, outside school, to support this as we would prefer children to be gaining a greater depth of experiences.

KS2 Homework

Spelling and Times tables

Each year group will take home spellings and times tables on a weekly basis.

Reading

KS2 work in Guided reading groups during the week completing reading activities. Children are also encouraged to take books home from the library and extend their reading. Pupils with specific needs may continue to be heard reading weekly by the class teacher or teaching assistant.

Experiences and activities

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How staff at Holy Trinity, Dobcross support this policy:

- By providing a range of experiences and activities for the children to complete termly.
- By ensuring that the children have a clear understanding of the tasks involved and a common understanding of the high expectations held of them individually, according to their ability;
- By communicating with parents and keeping them informed of the tasks, the expectations for recording and the date to be returned to school.

How parents can help to support children:

- Provide somewhere peaceful for children to work without the distractions of television, other family members and pets when learning spellings or times tables.
- Provide a suitable place, equipped with a comfortable chair, clear table space and good light when learning spellings or times tables.
- Provide encouragement and support to children when they require it;
- For younger children listen to them read or read to them on a daily basis.
- For older children discuss the book they are reading.

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- Support the school in explaining to children that homework is valued and aids learning;
- Encourage pupils and praise them when homework is completed;
- Be actively involved in the homework, activities and experiences expected;
- Aid the school by reminding children of hand in dates.

Pupils are expected to:

- Make full use of all the opportunities they are presented with;
- Tackle home tasks promptly and with a positive attitude;
- Take pride in presentation and content, acknowledging the high personal standard expected;
- Be organised so that necessary books and equipment are not left at school;
- Take responsibility for handing in the completed task on the agreed day.

Feedback for pupils, parents or carers and teachers

It is important that feedback is given to pupils as quickly as possible. This is given in a number of ways:

- Immediately by parents or carers;
- Through tests such as tables or spellings;
- Individual comment from teacher on written assignments;
- Pupils reviewing the work done in small groups;
- Presentation of homework in class and school assemblies.

Teachers are interested to know how children carried out activities, whether they were too hard/too easy/interesting, etc. The homework diary/reading record book is an ideal place for parents, carers and teachers to record any comments. Parents may also comment on whether the time allocation was appropriate or whether the activity was too short/too long. As with all school activities, parents are invited to discuss any queries with their child's class teacher.

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Appendix 1

Activity ideas for Reception

This list is an example list only. The class teacher will give out the definitive list at the beginning of each term, the recording method and the date of return.

Autumn Term Activities and Experiences

- Sit down at a table for a family meal.
- Go for a walk and find your favourite leaf.
- Make some buns.
- Make something out of sticks.
- Feed the birds.

Spring Term Activities and Experiences

- Sit down at a table for a family meal.
- Go for a ride on your scooter or bike.
- Help to tidy your bedroom.
- Share your favourite story with a grown up.
- Make something out of a box.
- Plant a bulb.

Summer Term Activities and Experiences

- Help to lay the table before sitting with your family for a family meal.
- Go for a family swim.
- Make a bug hotel.
- Dress up as your favourite story character.
- Help to make sandwiches and have a family picnic.
- Visit a museum.

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Appendix 2

Activity ideas for Year 1

This list is an example list only. The class teacher will give out the definitive list at the beginning of each term, the recording method and the date of return.

Autumn Term Activities and Experiences

- Bake biscuits or cakes for your family
- Make a Christmas card
- Go on a nature walk and make a collage of autumn leaves
- Tidy your bedroom
- Make a bird fat cake
- Learn a song

Spring Term Activities and Experiences

- Set the table for a family meal
- Make paper aeroplane
- Play a game with your family
- Go for a spring walk and notice all the new life
- Visit the library
- Build a snowman

Summer Term Activities and Experiences

- Make something out of play dough
- Go on a bike ride or scooter ride with your family
- Help to tidy the garden
- Make sandwiches to take on a family picnic
- Learn to skip
- Go to church

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Appendix 3

Activities ideas for Year 2

This list is an example list only. The class teacher will give out the definitive list at the beginning of each term, the recording method and the date of return.

Autumn Term Activities and Experiences

- Go on an autumn walk and take a picture of your adventure
- Make a Christmas card
- Learn a poem
- Use public transport with your family
- Sort out the re-cycling
- Use real money to buy something in a shop with your parents
- Go to Church

Spring Term Activities and Experiences

- Learn to tie shoelaces
- Help to load the dishwasher or wash the dishes
- Make a cake
- Plant some seeds
- Play a board game with your family
- Visit a museum
- Build a snowman

Summer Term Activities and Experiences

- Learn to tie a tie
- Read something that you wouldn't normally read e.g. a newspaper
- Help to prepare a family meal
- Use public transport with your family
- Visit the beach
- Go on a bike or scooter ride with your family
- Build a den

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Appendix 4

Activity ideas for year 3

This list is an example list only. The class teacher will give out the definitive list at the beginning of each term, the recording method and the date of return.

Autumn Term Activities and Experiences

- Play a family board game
- Make a sock puppet
- Wrap a present
- Eat a meal with your family and discuss your day
- Learn to hula hoop
- Go for a walk
- Visit a library
- Wash up or load the dishwasher

Spring Term Activities and Experiences

- Plant a tree
- Write a thank you letter to someone
- Eat a meal with your family and discuss your day
- Build a snowman
- Go on tram
- Interview someone in your house – find out what their favourite things are and what they don't like.
- Make a daisy chain

Summer Term Activities and Experiences

- Go for a picnic
- Eat a meal with your family and discuss your day
- Make jelly
- Visit a farm
- Fly a kite
- Skim a stone
- Set the table for dinner

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Appendix 5

Activity ideas for year 4

This list is an example list only. The class teacher will give out the definitive list at the beginning of each term, the recording method and the date of return.

Autumn Term Activities and Experiences

- Play a family board game
- Learn a song
- Eat a meal with your family and discuss your favourite hobby
- Climb a big hill
- Go to the theatre
- Make a bird house
- Hold a scary beast e.g. a spider

Spring Term Activities and Experience

- Paint a portrait of someone
- Plant fruit
- Go pond dipping
- Make a card for someone
- Make a snowman
- Visit a museum
- Hatch a butterfly

Summer Term Activities and Experiences

- Go to the beach
- Climb a tree
- Go on a bus
- Weed the garden or help to cook tea
- Set the table for dinner
- Create some wild art with things you find on your walk
- Play pooh stick

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Appendix 6

Activity ideas for year 5

This list is an example list only. The class teacher will give out the definitive list at the beginning of each term, the recording method and the date of return.

Autumn Term Activities and Experiences

- Play a family board game
- Write a thank you letter to someone
- Wrap a present
- Visit a stately home
- Bake a cake and decorate it
- Take photograph and frame it
- Set the table for dinner

Spring Term Activities and Experiences

- Learn a magic trick
- Plant vegetable
- Go star gazing
- Eat a meal with your family and discuss something on the news
- Make a snowman
- Read a newspaper
- Listen to your parents favourite song

Summer Term Activities and Experiences

- Go for a picnic
- Go for a bike ride
- Learn a poem
- Go on a train
- Hoover 2 rooms
- Make a bug hotel
- Climb a big hill

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Appendix 7

Activity ideas for year 6

This list is an example list only. The class teacher will give out the definitive list at the beginning of each term, the recording method and the date of return.

Autumn Term Activities and Experiences

- Paint a picture
- Raise money for charity
- Make a card for someone
- Go to church
- Make lunch for your family
- Go to the theatre
- Hang out the washing or help to load and unload the dryer

Spring Term Activities and Experiences

- Play a family board game
- Make someone breakfast in bed
- Make a snowman
- Eat a meal with your family and discuss something on the news
- Learn to juggle
- Create a blog
- Set the table for dinner
- Watch your parents favourite film

Summer Term Activities and Experiences

- Learn to sew a button on a shirt or a badge on a uniform
- Clean the car
- Watch a sunrise
- Pack a suitcase
- Go for a bike ride
- Visit a castle
- Go bird watching
- Read a newspaper