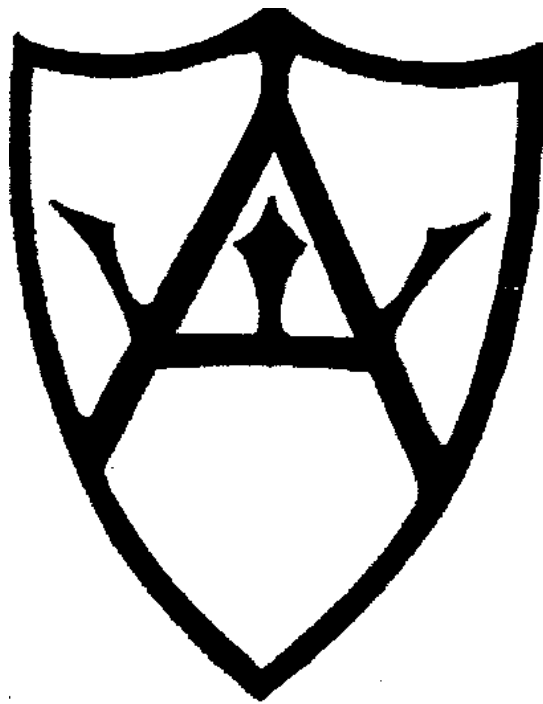


Alfriston School



Home Learning Policy

September 2020

Introduction

At Alfriston home learning is anything that children do outside the 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 to support children's learning. Ultimately, it is our aim to make home learning both purposeful and manageable for children, parents/carers and staff.

As a school we aim to facilitate broad learning experiences for all of our children and we recognise the benefit that parents and teachers working together to support this can bring. Home learning is seen as an important way to establish a successful dialogue between parents, children and teachers. At Alfriston we aim for children to become independent learners; we believe that carefully prepared home learning is one way in which the children can acquire this skill however, we also know the importance of maintaining a healthy balance between home learning and other family 'down' time.

Aims of 'home learning' at Alfriston School:

- To enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development;
- To promote a partnership between home and school in supporting each child's learning;
- To develop the skills of an independent learner and an understanding of individual responsibility;
- To provide additional educational experiences;
- To consolidate and reinforce learning done in school and to allow children to practise skills taught in lessons;
- To maintain a healthy balance between home learning and having sufficient free time to play, relax and develop other interests through outside clubs and groups;
- To ensure parents/carers have a clear understanding of the expectations placed on them, and their child/ren, by the school.

Types of 'home learning' at Alfriston Primary School

Parental surveys and forums have demonstrated that it is difficult to meet the expectations of all parents. Some feel that there is 'too much' homework, some say 'too little'.

During the school term time, there will be two types of homework given at Alfriston School – Core Tasks which are compulsory and Home Learning Projects/Show & Tell. No Home Learning Projects will be given during school holiday time but all children are expected to continue ongoing Core Tasks, such as reading, spellings and maths fluency activities, or activities that support transition.

A letter to parents/carers is sent out from each class at the beginning of every term throughout the year, detailing the areas of learning and topic for the term and detailing home learning as a reminder.

We have an 'Open Door Policy' and parents/carers are always welcome to make an appointment with their child's class teacher for clarification about their child's home learning, and we also arrange

specific parent information sessions for parents in order to keep abreast of the curriculum and pedagogy.

Core Tasks

There are important tasks such as reading, spellings and maths fluency activities (for Yr1 – 6, these are based on the Key Instant Recall Facts, or KIRFs, to enable children to be secure and fluent in by the end of the year) that children should complete each week, these together with reading daily are compulsory (we call these **Core Tasks**).

In addition, the school has a bank of resources (eg. Maths/spelling games and puzzles) and these are available for children and parents/carers to borrow.

Year Group	Core Task	How?	Feedback
Year R	1) Reading with an adult daily.	Parent/carers to record in Reading Record Book.	This will form a dialogue between staff and parents/carers to enable them to support their child's reading. Raffle ticket rewarded per week if read at least 5 times, to be entered into an end of term prize draw!
	2) Weekly activities linked to the week's learning, including phonics and maths.	Informed via the class learning platform/eSchools.	Directly to the children and house points awarded.
	3) Weekly 'Sound' activities.	Sound activity/sheet placed on the class learning platform/eSchools after being taught.	Directly to the children and house points awarded.
Years 1 & 2	1) Reading with an adult daily.	Parent/carers to record in Reading Record Book.	Monitored by class team, feedback given where necessary. Raffle ticket rewarded per week if read at least 5 times, to be entered into an end of term prize draw!
	2) Weekly phonics/spellings	Uploaded to the class learning platform/eSchools.	Checked regularly by class teacher and effort/progress rewarded with certificates.

	3) Weekly maths activity sheet (based on Key Instant Recall Facts – KIRFs).	Uploaded to the class learning platform/eSchools.	Checked regularly by class teacher and effort/progress rewarded with certificates.
Years 3 & 4	1) Reading daily and sharing their reading with an adult regularly.	Parent/carer to record in Reading Record Book.	Monitored by class team, feedback given where necessary. Raffle ticket rewarded per week if read at least 5 times, to be entered into an end of term prize draw!
	2) Personalised spelling list set every week.	Recorded on the class learning platform/eSchools.	Tested every week in class and rewarded with house points.
	3) Weekly maths activity sheet (based on Key Instant Recall Facts – KIRFs) and Times Tables practise (e.g using the online TT Rockstars school subscription).	Recorded on the class learning platform/eSchools. TT Rockstars accessible online at all times via individual pupil password.	Progress checked regularly by class team and rewarded with house points. TT Rockstars monitored online by class teacher and child given feedback in class weekly as part of the programme.
Years 5 & 6	1) Reading daily and sharing their reading with an adult regularly.	Parent/carer or child to record in Reading Record Book.	Monitored by class team, feedback given where necessary. Raffle ticket rewarded per week if read at least 5 times, to be entered into an end of term prize draw!
	2) Personalised spelling list set every week.	Recorded on the class learning platform/eSchools.	Tested every week in class and rewarded with house points.
	3) Weekly maths activity sheet (based on Key Instant Recall Facts – KIRFs).	Recorded on the class learning platform/eSchools.	Progress checked regularly by class team and rewarded with house points. TT Rockstars monitored online by class teacher and child given

	Times Tables practise (e.g using the online TT Rockstars school subscription).	TT Rockstars accessible online at all times via individual pupil password.	feedback in class weekly as part of the programme.
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Show & Tell/Home Learning Projects

In the Foundation Stage, each House 'Colour Group' (Cuckmere House = Blue; Exceat House = Red; Windover House = Green) have the opportunity to '**Show & Tell**' regularly. This supports children's developing speaking and listening skills.

In Key Stage 1, regular '**Show & Tell**' offers children an opportunity to further their speaking and listening skills by sharing any learning they have initiated at home which is linked to that term's topic.

In Key Stage 2, Home Learning Projects will be set in Terms 1, 3, 4 and 5, based on that term's learning and linked to any of the curriculum areas. This may be an open-ended task to enable children to personalise their learning. Feedback from the class teacher will be given through the class learning platform/eSchools.

Completed projects will always be shared at school. For example, as a show and tell with the class, as a display in the classroom/around the school, via the school newsletter.

Children in all classes are encouraged to share any additional information or resources, linked to the termly topic to enhance the learning in class.

In Years 5 & 6, as we prepare children for the **transition to secondary school**, we would expect children to develop their self-discipline and their ability to organise their time. We recognise that parents and children in Years 5 & 6 often feel that they would like more formal home learning activities to prepare themselves for managing homework at secondary school. The class teacher will, therefore, encourage children to complete all Home Learning Projects and, at their discretion, provide further learning opportunities when they believe it would directly support the pupils or the curriculum.

The importance of Home/School partnership

We know that parents will want to support their children:

- by taking an active interest in their child's home learning;
- by encouraging them and praising their efforts;
- by supporting them in particular tasks;
- by enabling them to complete their home learning.

The school will ensure that:

- tasks set are reasonable and matched to pupils' needs;
- children's efforts are praised and rewarded as appropriate;
- presentations/information sessions are provided to assist parents with understanding their child's learning, e.g. Maths calculations, phonics, spelling and reading workshops;
- it is supportive and will listen to parents who ask for help.

Equality Statement

Alfriston School recognises that everyone is different and special owing to varying needs and cultures. We aim to treat all differences positively, recognising that diversity creates a collaborative, creative and understanding school, where everyone is included to do lots of different things and have lots of different experiences.

Written by the children of Alfriston School - December 2017

This is reflected in our Equality Information and Objectives and in our vision to be 'Fair, Friendly, Fulfilling and Fun'.