



Thorns Community



Infant School

## **Park Hill Thorns Federation**

### **Homework Policy**

Created: February 2017

This review: March 2023

## **1. Purpose of Homework**

We believe that homework:

- Can play an important part in encouraging children to become independent learners. It can help pupils to take more responsibility for their own learning by encouraging them to learn and develop study skills and to improve their personal organisation and time management.
- Can help children to develop perseverance, initiative and self-discipline.
- Can be beneficial to pupils' learning.
- Has the potential to raise standards through consolidating learning.
- Can help reinforce the essential partnership between home and school by enabling parents to be actively involved in their children's learning.

## **2. Quantity and Type of Homework**

Whilst we believe that homework can have an important part to play in every child's learning, we aim to provide a balanced approach which recognises that children need time to pursue leisure/play and social activities and that these also play an important part in their overall development.

Any homework set will aim to support the child's learning in school. It will fall into one of several categories: regular reading; practising tables and number bonds; consolidating maths knowledge and skills; learning spellings; consolidating grammatical knowledge and skills.

On occasion children may be asked to research and present information linked to a topic; complete a practical task linked to the topic or complete work which should have been completed during a lesson. Year 6 children will also have some optional preparation test papers ready for key stage 2 SATs.

For further details of the type, quantity and timings of homework in each year group please see the information below and the table at the end of this policy.

### **Reading**

One of the main forms of homework is reading at home, children are expected to read at home at least three times every week.

Parents are asked to record reading in the children's reading diary (Thorns) or pupil planner (Park Hill). Guidance is provided to parents through parent partnership meetings for early reading and prompts and advice contained in the reading diary and pupil planners. When children are early readers it is important that an adult hears them read the text. When children are more fluent and independent readers the adult may hear children read the text but should also include a book chat in order to explore the content and vocabulary of the text that the children have read.

Class teachers or teaching assistants will acknowledge the reading taking place at home by checking the planners/diaries once every week and adding stickers. Very occasionally a teacher may add more information in order to support the child and parents at home.

### **Maths**

A maths task is set each week for children in Years 2 to Year 6 using an online tool - Mathletics in Year 2 and Maths Flex in Years 3 to 6. At present Maths Flex is under review as it is not proving successful for children or teachers; a new approach is anticipated in September 2023. Children in Year 1 and 2 are also asked to learn number facts and the 2, 5 and 10 times tables as part of their maths homework. Children in Years 3 to 6, practise their times tables as homework using an online tool - TT Rockstars.

### **Spellings and Grammar**

At Park Hill, this home work will be set to consolidate learning in the classroom with spellings and grammar set every week. At Thorns, children will have spellings only.

Spelling lists will contain a maximum of 10 words (other than Year 6 who may have more words) and will be drawn from high frequency lists, phonic patterns and spelling rules. Spellings will be tested through dictation and/or spelling quizzes and these will be both in and away from the week in which the spelling list was set.

Grammar worksheets for children in Years 3 to 6 will consolidate work already taught in class.

## **3. Partnership with Parents**

Parents are invited to fully participate in supporting their child's learning and often have a key role to play in enabling children to complete homework tasks; through reading with them, testing tables and number bonds, supporting and enabling a research task to be completed. The school will ensure that clear information is sent home to parents concerning homework expectations as well as holding regular Parent Partnership Meetings about different aspects of the curriculum.

Parents are expected to check the homework requirements on a regular basis and record reading at home (see the note above).

## **4. Supporting Homework in School**

In recognition of the increasing demands of homework at Park Hill and to support children who may find it difficult to access ICT resources an after school maths homework club is run each week at Park Hill.

Staff will monitor the completion of homework, including reading at home. Where allocated tasks are not undertaken regularly, class teachers will encourage children and parents to engage in the homework, particularly reading at home and offer support as necessary.

Children in Year 5 and Year 6 who do not complete the allocated homework may be asked to do so during the school day during breaktime and lunchtime.

## **5. Homework and Holidays**

On the rare occasions when children are absent from school for a holiday the school will not provide homework for children. The school will not set homework which must be completed over a holiday period, all homework will include term time days in order to undertake the tasks allocated.

## **6. Review**

Next review by headteacher in September 2023 to consider possible renewal of Mathematics and change of Maths Flex. Following review in March 2027.

Policy shared with governors for information

Year Group	Homework Expectations	Guidance on time expected to be spent on homework each week
Reception	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>reading 3 times per week, including learning 'tricky words', recorded in the home school reading diary</li> <li>optional activities detailed in the weekly curriculum information sent home to parents</li> </ul>	30 minutes reading
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>reading 3 times per week, including learning 'tricky words', recorded in the home school reading diary</li> <li>practising counting in 2s,5s and 10s and number bonds within 20, these to be assessed in school</li> <li>spellings</li> <li>optional activities detailed in the weekly curriculum information sent home to parents</li> </ul>	30 minutes reading 15 minutes number bonds 15 minutes spellings
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>reading 3 times per week, recorded in the home school reading diary</li> <li>practising 2,5 and 10 multiplication tables and number bonds within 20, these to be assessed in school; and weekly task set using Mathematics</li> <li>spellings</li> <li>optional activities detailed in the weekly curriculum information sent home to parents</li> </ul>	30 minutes reading 30 minutes maths 15 minutes spellings
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>reading 3 times per week, recorded in the home school book</li> <li>practising multiplication tables and related division facts, these to be assessed in school; and weekly task set using Maths Flex</li> <li>spellings and grammar</li> </ul>	45 minutes reading 30 minutes maths 30 minutes spelling and grammar
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>reading 3 times per week, recorded in the home school book</li> <li>practising multiplication tables and related division facts, these to be assessed in school; and weekly task set using MathsFlex</li> <li>spellings and grammar</li> </ul>	45 minutes reading 30 minutes maths  30 minutes spelling and grammar
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>reading 3 times per week, recorded in the home school book</li> <li>maintaining fluency in multiplication tables and related division facts to 12x12; and weekly task set using MathsFlex</li> <li>spellings and grammar</li> </ul>	45 minutes reading 30 minutes maths  30 minutes spelling and grammar
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>reading 3 times per week, recorded in the home school book</li> <li>maintaining fluency in multiplication tables and related division facts to 12x12, and weekly task set using MathsFlex</li> <li>spellings and grammar</li> <li>tasks set in preparation for KS2 SATs</li> </ul>	45 minutes reading 30 minutes maths  30 minutes spelling and grammar

- In addition to these expectations children may also on occasion be asked to complete tasks which should ordinarily have been completed in school.
- As children move into key stage 2 they will be increasingly involved in recording their reading in the home school book. Staff will check the reading record on a weekly basis.