

# **Cherry Orchard Primary School**

*"We care, we learn, we succeed."*

## **Homework Policy**

### **Purpose of Homework at Cherry Orchard**

- To support and extend the learning that has already taken place in the classroom.
- To develop English, maths and learning skills that are used on a daily basis.
- To provide an opportunity for older children to develop research skills, nurturing enthusiasm, curiosity and understanding of topics taught in school.
- To value parents' involvement in their child's learning and encourage strong links between school and home.

### **Summary of outstanding homework practice**

	<b>Daily tasks</b>	<b>Weekly tasks</b>
<b>Nursery</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Basic skills practice, e.g. getting dressed independently, counting to 10, finding things that begin with various letter sounds</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Share library book with an adult</li><li>• Maths activity (in homework book)</li><li>• Fill in the 'Print In The Environment' book</li></ul>
<b>Reception</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Minimum of 10 minutes reading to an adult (weekly reading scheme book or RWI Phonics book)</li><li>• 10 minutes mental maths practice</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Share library book with an adult</li><li>• Maths activity (in homework book)</li></ul>
<b>Year 1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Minimum of 15 minutes reading to an adult (weekly reading scheme book or RWI Phonics book)</li><li>• 10 minutes spelling practice</li><li>• 10 minutes mental maths practice</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Complete the weekly tasks on the right-hand page of their School Planner</li><li>• Share a book with an adult</li><li>• Maths activity (in homework book)</li><li>• Topic task (in homework book)</li></ul>
<b>Year 2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Minimum of 15 minutes reading to an adult (weekly reading scheme book or RWI Phonics book)</li><li>• 10 minutes spelling practice</li><li>• 10 minutes mental maths practice</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Complete the weekly tasks on the right-hand page of their School Planner</li><li>• Share a book with an adult</li><li>• Maths activity (in homework book)</li><li>• Topic task (in homework book)</li><li>• MyMaths online activities.</li></ul>
<b>Year 3</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Minimum of 15 minutes reading to an adult (guided reading book or library book)</li><li>• Minimum of 10 minutes independent reading of guided reading or library book</li><li>• 10 minutes spelling practice</li><li>• 10 minutes mental maths practice</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Complete the weekly tasks on the right-hand page of their School Planner</li><li>• Maths activity (in homework book)</li><li>• Topic task (in homework book) or research</li><li>• MyMaths and Manga High online activities</li><li>• Accelerated Reader quiz (as they finish reading each library book).</li></ul>
<b>Year 4</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Minimum of 15 minutes reading to an adult (guided reading book or library</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Complete the weekly tasks on the right-hand page of their School Planner</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>book)</li> <li>• Minimum of 15 minutes independent reading of guided reading or library book</li> <li>• 10 minutes spelling practice</li> <li>• 10 minutes mental maths practice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maths activity (in homework book)</li> <li>• Topic task (in homework book) or research</li> <li>• MyMaths and Manga High online activities</li> <li>• Accelerated Reader quiz (as they finish reading each library book).</li> </ul>
<b>Year 5</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum of 10 minutes reading to an adult (guided reading book or library book)</li> <li>• Minimum of 20 minutes independent reading of guided reading or library book</li> <li>• 10 minutes spelling practice</li> <li>• 10 minutes mental maths practice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete the weekly tasks on the right-hand page of their School Planner</li> <li>• Maths activity (in homework book)</li> <li>• Topic task (in homework book) or research</li> <li>• MyMaths and Manga High online activities</li> <li>• Accelerated Reader quiz (as they finish reading each library book).</li> </ul>
<b>Year 6</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum of 10 minutes reading to an adult (guided reading book or library book)</li> <li>• Minimum of 20 minutes independent reading of guided reading or library book</li> <li>• 10 minutes spelling practice</li> <li>• 10 minutes mental maths practice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete the weekly tasks on the right-hand page of their School Planner</li> <li>• Maths activity (in homework book)</li> <li>• Topic task (in homework book) or research</li> <li>• MyMaths and Manga High online activities</li> <li>• Accelerated Reader quiz (as they finish each library book).</li> </ul>

## Homework tasks explained

### Reading Record (Nursery)

All children in Nursery will be given a Reading Record Book. Each week, your child will choose a book from the class library to take home. Next to the title of the book, please make a note of any comments your child made and if they enjoyed the book.

### Print In The Environment book (Nursery)

This book will be sent home with your child every Friday and is used to develop Early Reading. Please stick 2 or 3 labels in that your child recognises such as 'ASDA', 'TESCO' etc.

### School Planner

Children from Reception to Year 6 are given a personal School Planner at the beginning of every academic year. Your child's personal School Planner plays an integral part in their learning on a daily basis, and is a vital tool for communication between school and home. **Your child should bring their School Planner to and from school every day.**

### Weekly reading books

**Reception and KS1 children** will be given a 'RWI Phonics' book or a 'Dittie' (series of simple sentences) to take home every 3 days whilst on the RWI Phonics learning programme at school.

**Children should read their RWI Phonics book to an adult on the evening it is received** then return the book to school the following day.

**In Reception**, your child will also be given a 'Floppy's Phonics' or 'Oxford Reading Tree' book every Friday to read to an adult at home. These books will be given to your child once they are able to read words and simple sentences. **Your child should read for around 10-15 minutes every day.** These books need to be returned to school every Wednesday.

**In KS1**, children will also be given a 'Floppy's Phonics' or 'Oxford Reading Tree' book every Friday to read to an adult at home. **KS1 children should read for around 15-20 minutes every day.** These books need to be returned to school every Wednesday.

**In KS2**, children will be asked to choose a guided reading scheme book from a wide range of genres each week. They will begin to read this book at school in guided reading sessions (groups of approximately 6 pupils led by the teacher) and are then expected to finish it, or read up to a certain page, at home. **KS2 children should read for around 20-30 minutes every day.**

### **Library books**

Every Friday, **EYFS and KS1 children** will be given a class library book to share at home. These books should be returned to school every Wednesday. If you wish, your child can borrow more than one book per week.

**KS2 children** will be given regular access to the school library where they will be able to borrow books from a wide choice of popular titles that are appropriate to their reading level. Once they have finished each book, they will be able to complete a quiz to assess their understanding of what they have read. These book quizzes can be completed by the children online at home or at school, using their individual login details.

### **Spellings**

**In KS1**, whilst children are still working through the Read Write Inc Phonics scheme, they will be given a list of spellings every Friday to learn ready for their spelling test the following Friday.

In order to commit spellings to their long-term memory, it is recommended that children spend **daily short sessions** working on their spellings using methods such as 'Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check'. With more complex words that are unfamiliar, it can help to use a dictionary to clarify meaning. Also, breaking up tricky words into sections (e.g. Wed-nes-day) or making up rhymes (e.g. *because: big elephants can't add up said Eric*) can help.

### **Read Write Inc Spelling Scheme**

Once children have completed the Read Write Inc Phonics scheme, they will begin the Read Write Inc Spelling scheme. This transition usually takes place at some point in **Year 2** and **all KS2** pupils will continue to learn how to spell using this scheme. Once on the scheme, children will be given the opportunity during lessons to record their personal spelling challenge words in their School Planner. Your child will need to practise these words regularly until they can spell them without making any mistakes. They will be tested on a random selection of these words at the end of each half-term. As always, we recommend that your child brings their School Planner to and from school every day so they can use them at school and at home on a daily basis.

## **Maths**

Every Friday, children will be given a **mental maths skill** to practise during the following week. Activities will include things such as recall of times tables and division facts, pairs to 10/100/1000, halving and doubling facts, use of money etc. This practise should be regular and can be done anywhere: in the car, on the bus or walking. Also, we would encourage parents to use opportunities when out and about: mentally calculating cost and change when shopping etc. as it all helps.

Every Friday, children will also be given a **maths activity** to complete, which will be based on the work they have been doing in class that week. It will not usually be worksheet based, but **children should record their work in the homework book** provided and return the book to school the following Wednesday.

In Years 2 – 6 there is also a MyMaths activity set where children will be set a task to complete which will give them an insight into their next week's math's learning. This task is aimed to prepare them ready for the following week. Children can also use MyMaths to self-teach for the following week.

In Key Stage 2, a weekly Manga High task will be set based upon the week's learning.

## **Topic tasks**

Every Friday, teachers will inform parents about the topics that have been taught that week. All children will be given a **task to complete based on one of the topics** covered that week. **They should record their work in their homework book** and return it to school the following Wednesday. This task may also be to research current or future topics being taught.

## **Things to remember**

Every Friday, teachers will inform parents of the topics that will be taught the following week. When necessary, your child's teacher will include useful reminders or preparation activities in your child's School Planner. These will be based on the following week's topics in school.

## **Weekly targets**

When necessary, your child's teacher will include personal targets in their School Planner. These will be based on their individual needs as well as age-related expectations.

## **Healthy Focus**

We will include a 'Healthy Focus' on the homework sheets each week. These will be simple tips aimed at encouraging Cherry Orchard children to lead healthy lifestyles which will also help to make them better learners.

## **Equal Opportunities**

The school is committed to working towards equality of opportunities for all pupils regardless of their gender, race, disability and socio-economic background.

Parents will be sent the Cherry Orchard Home-School Agreement at the beginning of every academic year. The homework policy will also be available to parents on the school website.

Alternative arrangements for parental feedback can be agreed with any parents who may have difficulty filling in their child's School Planner.

All children will be provided with a homework book in which to record their work. The school will provide opportunities for children to access online learning platforms such as MyMaths, Manga High and Accelerated Reader weekly during some lessons and at lunchtimes, with priority given to those children who do not have internet access at home.

### **Monitoring and evaluation**

Homework books and School Planners will be checked weekly by class teachers. Parents will be notified if their child is regularly failing to hand in homework on time.

Parents and pupils will be asked to give their opinion about our homework policy through an online questionnaire at least once a year.

**Policy updated July 2017 by Alison Taylor**