Cherry Orchard Primary School

''We care, we learn, we succeed.'

Homework Policy

Date of Policy: October 2026
Member of Staff Responsible: Curriculum Leader
Review Date: October 2027

Purpose of Homework at Cherry Orchard

- To support the pupils' acquisition of knowledge and skills across the curriculum.
- To enable pupils to view relevant information prior to a lesson to prepare for their learning in school.
- To support and extend the learning that has already taken place in the classroom.
- To encourage pupils to practise their recall of key facts regularly so that they retain them in their long-term memories.
- To provide an opportunity for 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 the homework practice of an outstanding learner:

	Daily tasks	Weekly tasks
Nursery	• Basic skills practice, e.g. getting dressed independently, counting to 10, finding things that begin with each letter sound	• Share library book with an adult • Maths activity (practical) • 'Chat at home' book
Reception	• Minimum of 10 minutes reading to an adult (weekly reading scheme book or RWI Phonics book once children are able to read words) • Watch phonics videos with an adult (on Class Dojo) • 10 minutes mental maths practice Spring term onwards: 10 minutes reading common exception words practice or spelling practice	• Share and talk about a book with an adult • Maths activity (on Class Dojo) • Ask Me About activity • Practise correct letter formation in green phonics book (on Class Dojo)
Year 1	• Minimum of 15 minutes reading to an adult (weekly reading scheme book or RWI Phonics book) • Watch phonics videos with an adult (on Google Classroom) • 10 minutes spelling practice • 10 minutes mental maths practice	• Share and talk about a book with an adult • Maths activity (on Google Classroom or Numbots) • Hold and write a sentence • Flipped Learning Task
Year 2	• Minimum of 20 minutes reading to an adult (weekly reading scheme book or RWI Phonics book) • 10 minutes spelling practice • 10 minutes mental maths / TTRS	• Share and talk about a book with an adult • Maths activity (on Google Classroom or Numbots) • Flipped Learning Task

Year 3	• Minimum of 15 minutes reading to an adult (weekly reading scheme book) • Minimum of 10 minutes independent reading of reading scheme/library book • 10 minutes spelling practice • 15 minutes mental maths / TTRS	• Share and talk about a book with an adult • Maths activity (on Google Classroom) • Flipped learning tasks
Year 4	• Minimum of 15 minutes reading to an adult (weekly reading scheme book) • Minimum of 15 minutes independent reading of reading scheme/library book • 10 minutes spelling practice • 15 minutes mental maths / TTRS	• Summarise your weekly reading scheme book in your planner • Maths activity (on Google Classroom) • Flipped Learning Tasks
Year 5	• Minimum of 10 minutes reading to an adult (reading scheme book) • Minimum of 20 minutes independent reading of reading scheme/library book • 10 minutes spelling practice • 15 minutes mental maths / TTRS	• Summarise your weekly reading scheme book in your planner • Maths activity (on Google Classroom) • Flipped Learning Tasks
Year 6	• Minimum of 10 minutes reading to an adult (reading scheme book) • Minimum of 20 minutes independent reading of reading scheme/library book • 10 minutes spelling practice • 10 minutes mental maths / TTRS	• Summarise your weekly reading scheme book in your planner • Maths activity (on Google Classroom) • Activity on Maths.co.uk • Flipped Learning Tasks

Homework tasks explained

Nursery – 'Chat at Home' book

This book will be sent home with your child every Friday and is used to develop Early Reading. This should be returned with the activities completed every Wednesday.

'Chat at Home' books involves weekly speech and language type activities for the children to talk about. It could be a picture, and they have to talk about what is happening in the picture.

Reception – 'Let's chat'

The homework sheet includes a section called 'Let's chat'. Here, teachers share any new vocabulary taught that week and suggest a conversation or talking activity that parents can do with their child to practise the new words.

Read Write Inc (RWI) Phonics books that help your child to learn to read

Reception and KS1 children will be given a RWI Phonics book or a 'Ditty' (series of simple sentences) to take home every 3-4 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 **(more than once if possible),** then return the book to school the following day. Children will be given sound sheets when a new sound is taught.

Weekly reading books that help your child to learn to read

Children will receive a new reading book every Friday.

In Reception, your child will be given a 'Book Bag Book' to read to you during the week. These books will be given to your child once they are able to read words and simple sentences. **Your child should read to an adult for around 10-15 minutes every day and they should read the same book as many times as possible, but at least 3 times during the week.** These books need to be returned to school every Wednesday.

In KS1, children will be given a 'Book Bag Book' to read to an adult during the week. **KS1 children should read to an adult for around 15-20 minutes every day and they should read the same book as many times as possible, but at least 3 times during the week.** These books need to be returned to school every Wednesday.

In KS2, children will be given a new reading scheme book every Friday and they are expected to read this and return it by the following Friday. **KS2 children should read for around 30 minutes a day, and read to an adult at least twice a week.**

Library books that help your child develop a love for reading

We encourage all our pupils to enjoy as many books as possible. Every Friday, EYFS and KS1 children will be able to choose a class library book to take home. These books will often be too difficult for your children to read themselves, but listening to you read and talking about the book will help them develop their vocabulary. Again, re-reading these books will help your child to memorise new words and stories so if they bring the same book home lots of times because they love it, please share it with them again. These books should be returned to school every Wednesday.

KS2 children will be given regular access to their class library where they will be able to borrow books by a wide range of authors and genres that are recommended for their age.

Spellings

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

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 be taught 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 do not have weekly spelling tests in KS2 but 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.

Practising spellings

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 or making up rhymes can help, for example, *because: big elephants can't add up said Eric.*

School Planner

Children from Year 1 to Year 6 are given their own school planner at the beginning of every academic year. Your child's school planner plays an integral part in their learning on a daily basis, and is also a vital tool for communication between school and home. **Your child should bring their school planner to and from school every day.** School planners will be checked weekly by class teachers. As part of their homework, pupils may be asked to visit a particular page to support their learning the following week. This could be a basic skill that needs to be mastered ready for deeper learning to take place in the classroom. All children should have their personal learning targets in their school planner. These will be based on their individual needs as well as age-related expectations.

Times Tables Rock Stars (TTRS)

Children from Years 2 to 6 will be given individual login details (noted in their school planner) for Times Tables Rock Stars. This is an online platform that they can access to help them learn or revise their times tables facts. Children should access this daily or as many times as they can each week while they are learning their tables.

Knowledge Organiser task

Each week part of the knowledge organiser will be uploaded to Google Classroom for children to use to help them remember key facts from a particular topic. Children will be encouraged to create flashcards, make quizzes or use any other methods which could help them to remember the information. In class the following week, children will be tested on their knowledge from their learning. This will support them to retain the key facts and vocabulary in their long-term memory.

Things to Remember

When necessary, your child's teacher will include useful reminders on the homework sheet on Google Classroom. These will be based on the following week's activities in school.

Monitoring and evaluation

The impact of homework is monitored and evaluated with the following in mind:

- Is homework completed regularly by all children in the school?
- Do parents feel that they are aware of what their children are studying in school?
- Do children enjoy their home learning and does it have a positive impact on their learning in school?

Homework will be checked weekly by class teachers. Pupils will miss time from break if their homework is not completed. Parents will be notified if their child is regularly failing to hand in homework on time.

Teachers set pupils' homework on Google Classroom and on Class Dojo in EYFS. Teachers monitor their class to ensure pupils are completed the work set as this work will support them during lesson times.
Class teachers check pupils are completing their work on Numbots, Times Table Rockstars and Maths.co.uk. House points are awarded to pupils.

The role of parents/carers

How you can help your child with their homework

Below is a list of ways that parent/carers can show their child that they value their homework and the time and effort spent completing it. The school will also provide clear and regular reminders of their expectation when it comes to homework. As a school we hope that you will find this guidance helpful in supporting your child fully with their homework.

You can show you value your child's homework by:

- providing a suitable place in which your child can do their homework, preferably with an adult to discuss, encourage and support;
- making it clear to your child that you value homework and support the school in explaining how it can help learning;
- encouraging your child and praising them when they have completed work set;
- ensuring work is complete and returned to school on time;
- checking your child spends a suitable amount of time on homework.

Additionally, you can support your child's development by:

- visits to libraries, museums etc.;
- cooking with them;
- taking your child swimming;
- playing games, e.g. board games, cards, ball games;
- watching informative TV programmes together;
- providing opportunities for craft activities, e.g. cutting, sticking, sewing, painting etc.;
- gardening and growing plants;
- using the internet to research something with your child (following guidelines for safe internet use);
- Attending any school workshops that may be on offer designed to enable parents/carers to support their child's learning at home;
- Talking to your child about schoolwork, their day, what they have been learning about and how they have been learning.

Parents/carers can maintain a dialogue about homework with their child's class teacher through their child's school planner.

If their child has any problems in carrying out the homework, parents/carers should contact the class teacher.

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.

The Cherry Orchard Home-School Charter can be found in your child's school planner and we ask that parents and pupils sign to show their support 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 need support filling in their child's school planner.

All pupils entitled to targeted free school meals will be provided with a Chromebook at the beginning of the academic year to enable them to access the online platforms used at Cherry Orchard to support home learning. These are collected in at the end of the academic year. When available, the school will signpost parents/carers to funding towards the cost of internet access.

Pupils with SEND may receive homework in a format with reasonable adjustments made.

Newly arrived pupils with EAL will receive additional support to practise English in school and at home via the Flash Academy programme.