

## **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 each letter sound.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Share library book with an adult</li><li>• Maths activity (practical)</li><li>• Fill in the 'Print In The Environment' book.</li><li>• Chatter Books to encourage speaking at home.</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 10 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 any tasks outlined in 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 any tasks outlined in 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 3</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Minimum of 15 minutes reading to an adult (weekly reading scheme book)</li><li>• Minimum of 10 minutes independent reading of reading scheme book 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 any tasks outlined in their School Planner</li><li>• Maths activity (in homework book)</li><li>• Topic task (in homework book)</li><li>• Manga High online maths activities.</li></ul>
<b>Year 4</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Minimum of 15 minutes reading to an adult (weekly reading scheme book)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Complete any tasks outlined in their School Planner</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum of 15 minutes independent reading of reading scheme book 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)</li> <li>• Manga High online maths activities.</li> </ul>
<b>Year 5</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum of 10 minutes reading to an adult (reading scheme book)</li> <li>• Minimum of 20 minutes independent reading of reading scheme book 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 any tasks outlined in their School Planner</li> <li>• Maths activity (in homework book)</li> <li>• Topic task (in homework book)</li> <li>• Manga High online maths activities.</li> </ul>
<b>Year 6</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum of 10 minutes reading to an adult (reading scheme book)</li> <li>• Minimum of 20 minutes independent reading of reading scheme book 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 any tasks outlined in their School Planner</li> <li>• Maths activity (in homework book)</li> <li>• Topic task (in homework book)</li> <li>• Manga High online maths activities.</li> </ul>

## Homework tasks explained

### Reading Record (Nursery)

All children in Nursery will be given a Reading Record Booklet. 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 recognizes such as 'ASDA', 'TESCO' etc.

### Chatter book (Nursery)

This is a book which encourages your child to talk about what they have been learning at school. This will be sent home with your child every Friday and returned on a Wednesday.

### 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 also 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

Children will receive a new reading book every Friday.

**In Reception**, your child will be given a 'Floppy's Phonics' or 'Oxford Reading Tree' 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 for around 10-15 minutes every day.** These books need to be returned to school every Wednesday.

**In KS1**, children will be given a 'Floppy's Phonics' or 'Oxford Reading Tree' book to read to an adult during the week. **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 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.**

### **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 library where they will be able to borrow books that are appropriate to their reading level. Once they have finished each book, they will be able to complete an online quiz to assess their understanding of what they have read and to score points.

### **Read Write Inc (RWI) Phonics books**

**Reception and KS1 children** will be given a RWI Phonics book or a 'Ditty' (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.

### **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 Wednesday.

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.*

### **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 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 practice 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 3 to 6, a weekly Manga High online maths task will be set based upon the week's learning.

### **Topic work**

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. Every Friday, teachers will also inform parents about the topics that will be taught the following week.

### **Things to remember**

When necessary, your child's teacher will include useful reminders in their School Planner. These will be based on the following week's activities 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.

### **Knowledge Organisers**

Our history, geography, art and design technology topics are taught in weekly blocks rather than one lesson each week as we have found that the children become more immersed in their learning and retain more information this way. Prior to the focus weeks taking place, your child will be sent home with a Knowledge Organiser, which will provide details of the subject content so that your child can complete some prior research at home.

### **Healthy Focus**

As Cherry Orchard holds the Healthy Schools Award, 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 need support filling in their child's School Planner.

All children will be provided with a homework book in which to record their work. KS2 pupils without internet access will be given the opportunity to complete their 'Manga High' activities during lunchtimes.

### **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 2019 by Alison Taylor**