



Homework at Heatherside



Homework provides an opportunity for children to practise, re-inforce, enhance and extend their learning beyond the classroom and to share with their families the work they are doing. Thinking skills, problem solving, independence and perseverance are all developed through homework tasks and activities in addition to the positive and lasting impact that practice at home has on children's progress in the basic skills.

We believe that homework provides an essential link between school and home, enabling parents to take an active role in their children's learning. The setting of homework helps children to develop independent study skills, taking responsibility for their work and managing their time effectively in readiness for challenges of the next stage of their learning.

At Heatherside Junior, we are committed to planning and providing homework that both supports and enhances the curriculum. Tasks and activities are linked to learning in school and, where appropriate, are differentiated to reflect children's abilities. Homework tasks will be varied throughout the year, sometimes it might be a game to play or make, some finding out, written activities linked to topics, maths problems or calculations or maybe items/ideas to collect in preparation for work in school. We may also set a whole school homework.

Homework is set every week and all children are expected to complete the work in the time given. The following guidance explains what work is set, time expectations, feedback and how we support and encourage all our children.

- 📖 In all year groups, homework is given on a set day and is due in a week later, although project work may extend over several weeks. Work can be handed in earlier.
- 📖 Homework will be **alternated**, with **Maths one week** and **English/wider curriculum the other**. Homework is expected to take approximately **30 minutes for Year 3** and **45 minutes- 1 hour for Years 4, 5 and 6**. *(The exact time may depend on the child and parents are encouraged to speak to their child's teacher if homework is taking significantly longer than this.)*
- 📖 **Multiplication facts Tables, number bonds, spelling activities and reading are set in addition to this**. Children may also be asked to collect items to bring into school or, on occasion, complete an extended project over a period of time.
- 📖 For **Maths**, homework will be set and marked by the **group teacher**. This helps to ensure that the work is suited to the needs of children in that group. Therefore, not all children in the year group will receive the same homework.
- 📖 For **English/wider curriculum**, homework will be set by the **classteacher**. Within this, expectations may be different for children of different abilities.
- 📖 Children are issued with **two homework exercise books**, one for Maths and one for English/wider curriculum. Unless otherwise stated, all work should be completed in these books and **parents are asked to sign their child's book** to indicate that the work has been done.
- 📖 All maths work is to be completed in pencil. All other work* should be done in blue pen, using either a fountain pen, rollerball or pen with free flowing ink. Biro's must not be used. (* Year 3 will complete all their work in pencil initially.)
- 📖 Homework will be **marked** before the next task for that subject is set. Where appropriate, work may be assessed in class as an integral part of the lesson. If the activity has been e.g. research or a game to be played, feedback may be given orally by the teacher in class.
- 📖 All children are expected to hand their work in on time, completed to a standard in line with their ability. A **stamp** may be awarded for exceptional effort or standard of work. **Stickers, positive comments, Star Certificates and House Points** will also be used to praise and reward good homework and effort.
- 📖 Teachers and Learning Support staff will help explain homework to any child who is experiencing difficulty and parents are also encouraged to contact the teacher if they are unsure about the task prior to the day that the work is due in.

If a child is not completing homework or is handing it in persistently late, the following steps will be applied. Children may also be asked to re-do work if it has been rushed and does not appropriately reflect the standard they are capable of.

1. The teacher will talk to the child to check they understood the work or if they are finding it difficult to complete the work at home.
2. The teacher will speak to the child's parent/s to see how the school can support them, to establish if there are any factors that need to be taken into account and also to remind parents of the school's expectations with regard to homework.
3. Homework will be re-issued to be returned the next day.
4. If a child still fails to hand in their homework task, they will be required to attend Homework Club on a Friday lunchtime.
5. The school will contact parents by email to share concerns and to ask for their support.
6. If a child still fails to complete homework as required, Year Leaders or a member of Senior Leadership Team will be notified and may request a more formal meeting with the child and his/her parents.

The school recognises that it may be very difficult for some children to complete their work at home and every effort is made to provide the appropriate levels of support and guidance to meet individual children's needs. Children are encouraged to attend Homework Club if they would like some initial input or support.

As far as practicably possible, all homework and spelling tasks are posted on the school's website weekly so that parents and children are able to access these at home if needed.

The Role of Parents

Our aim is to provide homework tasks that will enhance and improve children's progress and the support of parents in ensuring that homework is completed is essential. We ask that parents provide a quiet time and place for children to work and, as far as possible, that children complete the task on their own. Children are given 7 days to complete their work, which allows time for parents or children to check with the teacher if there are any misunderstandings about the task. We recognise that parents are busy too but ask that time is given to this important element of their child's education. Homework and Reading hints are given on the actual homework where possible. By working together, we aim to make homework a valuable and enjoyable part of Heatherside school life.