



# Homework and Enjoying Learning Together at Home

The Fellowship of

All Saints Kirkby Overblow and North Rigton CE Primary Schools



At All Saints Kirkby Overblow and North Rigton CE Primary Schools we have carefully studied available evidence and specific studies on the purpose and impact of homework on learning and attainment.

## So what does the evidence tell us?

- Homework is most effective when it involves practice or rehearsal of subject matter already taught
- Children should not typically be exposed to new material for their homework, unless they are judged more expert learners
- Complex, open ended homework is completed least effectively
- Short frequent homework is more likely to have impact
- Homework is much more effective with older children and has limited impact on primary children's attainment

## So what makes homework effective?

Cathy Vatterott (2010) identified five fundamental characteristics of good homework: purpose, efficiency, ownership, competence and aesthetic appeal.

1. **Purpose:** all homework assignments are meaningful and students must understand the purpose of the assignment and why it is important.
2. **Efficiency:** homework should not take an inordinate amount of time and should require some hard thinking.
3. **Ownership:** students who feel connected to the content learn more and are more motivated. Providing students with choice in their assignments is one way to create ownership.
4. **Competence:** students should feel competent in completing homework.
5. **Aesthetic Appeal:** A well-considered and clearly designed resource and task impacts positively upon student motivation.

**So how can teachers and parents ensure *Homework and Enjoying Learning Together at Home* is purposeful, efficient, owned by our children, our children feel confident and competent when completing it and our children are inspired to practise more?**

<b>Homework and Enjoying Learning Together at Home...</b>				
<b>Is PURPOSEFUL</b>	<b>Is EFFICIENT "Little and Often" at home...</b>	<b>Is OWNED BY YOUR CHILDREN</b>	<b>Makes YOUR CHILDREN FEEL COMPETENT</b>	<b>Is APPEALING AND INSPIRING TO YOUR CHILDREN</b>
<p>The class teacher will send home termly information about subjects, topics and projects to be covered in class. This will enable our children and their families to continue and extend the learning beyond the classroom at their own pace and in their own time. This information will also be available on the school website.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Share books: encourage your children to read and discuss books, read to them and discuss vocabulary, punctuation and probe for understanding</li> <li>• Write for a reason: invitations, cards, thank you notes, holiday journals</li> <li>• Maths everyday in everyway: count steps, toys, stones, conkers, everything! Identify fractions in food. Follow recipes. Sing times tables songs on very long journeys!</li> <li>• Talk about the world around you: decisions that you make, ideas that you have, outings that need planning...</li> </ul>	<p>Extend learning beyond the classroom by providing your children opportunities to engage with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visits and trips (museums and galleries)</li> <li>• Making models</li> <li>• Writing stories</li> <li>• Drawing pictures and diagrams</li> <li>• Completing or creating word searches, quizzes, crosswords</li> <li>• Non-fiction books</li> <li>• Roleplay and dressing up</li> </ul> <p>And bring anything they do into school to share with their teacher and classmates!</p>	<p>Top Tips:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep on smiling and stay resolutely positive</li> <li>• Praise, praise, praise</li> <li>• Praise the efforts of your child not the final product or the finishing of the task</li> <li>• Stop and try again later if your child becomes demoralised or downhearted</li> <li>• If your child says they cannot do something, respond with "you can't do it YET..."</li> </ul> <p>On occasion, we may provide individually adapted tasks to ensure we are meeting the needs of our children with Special Educational Needs.</p>	<p>There are many commercially available products, which are appealing to children and provide daily, or weekly, practice and repetition of basic skills.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Age appropriate workbooks from publishers such as Collins and Scholastic are widely available</li> <li>• Websites, such as: twinkl.co.uk primaryresources.co.uk bbc.co.uk/schools provide learning resources for Maths, English and topics</li> <li>• There are also many downloadable apps such as NumberBlocks, Sum Dog, Spelling Shed, TT Rockstars, Squeebles and many others</li> </ul>

## So what does *Homework and Enjoying Learning Together* look like in our school?

<b>In our school we will NOT routinely set the following types of homework:</b>	<b>In our class (Busy Bees) we will:</b>
<p>Traditional, formal weekly homework tasks, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reading Comprehension Worksheets</li><li>• Maths worksheets</li><li>• Spellings to be learnt for a test</li><li>• Times tables to be learnt for a test</li><li>• Learning Logs</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Change reading books when they have finished a book they are reading. We encourage the children to share their understanding and enjoyment of the book with the rest of the class or their class teacher. There will also be a reward system to encourage reading at home.</li><li>• Provide you with a list of Year 3 and 4 Orange words and an overview of Year 2/3/4 spelling patterns that the children will be learning during the year for you to use if you wish to share this learning further at home with your child. These can be found on the class website page.</li><li>• Provide you with an overview of the Maths learning that will be taking place in the classroom so if you wish you can support your child's learning at home. This can be found on the class website page.</li><li>• Provide log-in details for your children to access TTRockstars to enhance the fluency of their times tables.</li><li>• Send home a 'Learning Opportunities' page which links to our termly projects. Also, please see our project overview on the class website page.</li></ul>

### **A message from Mrs Andrews**

Dear Parents,

Long-serving teachers know that much, if not all, of the traditional types of homework set in primary schools does little to enhance the attainment of primary aged pupils and the research evidence now corroborates this. For example, I am often told by teachers, that spellings learnt for tests are not applied when writing stories and by parents, that the homework set was too easy or too hard, or caused tears or took all weekend – this is not what homework should be.

Homework, for primary aged children, should be... *Enjoying Learning Together at Home*. Therefore, our school no longer sends home traditional weekly homework. Instead, use the information provided in this document and the information provided by your class teacher to support you and your child as you explore opportunities to learn together at home and with other members of your family.

So, please... read together, play games, go for a walk, mess about in the garden, bake, build a den, knit, sew, paint a picture, saw something in half, put on a show, make up a song, do a good old-fashioned jigsaw, climb a tree and *Enjoying Learning Together at Home*.

Mrs Andrews