



Abbots Farm Junior School

Home Learning Policy

Although not a legal requirement, our school has adopted a home learning policy to clearly outline the partnership between school and home in the learning process and to promote the opportunities for learning away from the classroom. The content of the policy has been created in response to feedback from all stakeholders (pupils, parents and staff)

The aims of the policy are to:

- clearly explain the content of year group home learning
- provide an understanding of the learning expectations at school
- give guidance of progression between the year groups in home learning
- outline how parents can support their children

Why set home learning?

- It can further stimulate enthusiasm for learning
- It gives further opportunities to consolidate key skills taught in class
- It informs parents of the work going on in class
- It allows for children to work alongside their parents and establishes a common interest in the learning
- To prepare children for the next phase in their school lives

What will my child be set for home learning?

Throughout your child's time with us, they will be set a variety of home learning tasks/experiences. However, there will always remain a core focus on readings, spellings and times tables.

Reading: We actively encourage our pupils to read as regularly as possible. We have set an expectation of at least 4 nights per week (varying in duration – see table below). Reading at home is to be managed how parents deem it most appropriate. We encourage children to read aloud to their parents but also understand that some more accomplished children prefer to read independently, particularly as they enter Upper Key Stage 2 (Years 5 and 6). We ask that parents sign the reading planner, indicating how long their child has read for. These will be monitored at regular points throughout each half term. We use this to form the basis of rewarding pupils with reading certificates and house points. If a child does not have their book signed, we may contact parents to find out why.

**Our new library is open every evening until 4pm should families wish to come and change books or to sit and read together.*

Spellings: Spellings will be set regularly and tested in accordance with this. The majority of spellings will be related to the Year group spelling lists, outlined by the DfE*

In some instances, spellings may vary for individuals who aren't quite working at the age appropriate stage. Equally, additional tasks may be set to consolidate the learning of spellings. In all instances, parents will be informed of the provision put in place.

Times tables: As with spellings, times tables will be set and tested regularly. Each child will receive a variety of times tables grids to practice on dependent on their current focus. However, we also encourage parents to test their children in any manner they wish on top of this.

For children higher up in the school who have mastered their times tables, alternative mental maths provision will be available.

****Further support material is being sourced to support school and our parents with the delivery and the variety of times tables**

Maths/English Home Learning: In addition to the 'fundamentals' above, school will also set **maths and English** home learning. This will vary in content, depth and regularity in accordance with the timings grid below. Along with the fundamentals, this will be completed and submitted weekly.

Topic Home Learning: This will be set at the start of each half term and provide children with a variety of learning opportunities to choose from and engage with. This will link directly to the learning taking place in class but may give chance for children to use their research skills, artistic talents and may provide opportunities to learn outdoors. We hope that parents will encourage their children to take part in this element of the home learning, however we have set this as our only optional section, meaning that it is not compulsory to hand the work in if families do not wish to.

How long should we spend on Home Learning?

The grid below gives guidance for the duration of home learning across each year group. If your child works beyond these times, please indicate it on the parental section of the home learning grid.

| Year group | Reading (4 nights +) | Spellings / Times Tables (altered if required) | Maths/English | Topic (optional) |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|---|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 3 | 10-15 mins | weekly | 20-30 mins (alternating weekly) | Half-termly sheet |
| 4 | 15-20 mins | weekly | 20 mins each | Half-termly sheet |
| 5 | 20 mins+ | weekly | 20-30 mins each | Half-termly sheet |
| 6 | 20 mins+ | weekly | 30+ mins each | Half-termly sheet |

How can families communicate with school?

Families have a number of ways to communicate with school. We encourage pupils to seek support from their teachers if they require it. In the first instance, parents can communicate with teachers via the parental section of the new home learning grid. Equally, they can use the learning planners or contact the office to make an appointment to see teachers.

Whilst we are trying to promote a culture of high expectations and foster excellent habits in our pupils, we do understand that there will be difficulties along the way with engaging with the home learning. We would therefore always recommend you communicate with your child's class teacher in the first instance.

How will school support us?

Before home learning is sent home, all teachers go through the content, provide examples and then ensure that there is an opportunity for questions.

Depending on the type of home learning, support examples may be provided to remind pupils and parents of the content expected. Teachers may also provide specific websites to help with research or understanding different skills. When using Mymaths, the tutorial videos are an excellent way to support your child.

Home Learning Club: Home learning club, which runs weekly at lunchtimes, is a fantastic opportunity for pupils to seek support from the teachers in their year group and get a 'head start' with some of their home learning. There is access to computers and to printers if required, plus any other resources they might need (paper/glue/scissors etc). We actively encourage pupils to attend as it is a great chance to consolidate their learning before heading home. A timetable of each Year group's specified day will be made available at the start of each year.

What next?

We are always looking for ways to communicate more effectively and provide appropriate and timely support for our families. As such, we will be assessing the feedback provided through our parental discussion groups to identify how we develop home learning further.

Joss Andrews
Headteacher

Policy created – October 2017
Next date of review – September 2018