

Vigo Primary School



Home Learning Principles

At Vigo Primary School, we believe that the opportunity to participate in home learning can add much to a pupil's development, progress and attainment in their education.

Aims of these principles

Through implementation of these principles, we aim to:

- Give pupils the opportunity to extend their learning in areas of personal interest
- Ensure a consistent approach throughout the school
- To encourage children to develop the resilience, independence and motivation needed to study on their own and prepare them for the next phase of education
- To make home learning which is set relevant and meaningful for the child linked to work in school
- Make expectations about home learning clear to children, parents and other carers
- Provide opportunities for parents and children to work together, thereby, fostering an effective partnership between home and school

Why do we value homework?

Children benefit greatly from the mutual support of parents and teachers in encouraging them to learn both at home and at school. By valuing home-school learning, pupils are afforded the chance to practice skills, consolidate understanding of work covered in the classroom and to widen their own interests. Moreover, developing good study habits provides an opportunity for pupils to develop self-discipline, independence and the ability to take responsibility for their own learning.

Principles

- The level of home learning is tailored according to the child's age and ability.
- Sufficient time is allowed for the completion of home learning to allow for a healthy home/school work balance.
- Teachers ensure that the tasks are purposeful and aimed at developing and consolidating fundamental skills.
- Teachers provide parents and pupils with clear motivational instructions for tasks as well as clear examples of work to guide both children and adults.
- Parents will be informed about our aims in setting homework and about the importance this type of work plays in children's education.

How homework will be set

- Learning will be set half termly.
- Children whose parents/carers have informed school that they do not have access to technology will be provided with a paper copy.
- Reading may be via 'real' books and/or ebooks (big cat).

Recognition and Rewards:

The recommendations for home learning time of primary aged children is little and often; children should aim to complete home learning as often as possible and if able to daily when at home. Children who complete their home learning will be praised to encourage intrinsic motivation which references our MIRROR values. They will also be rewarded with Dojo points which contribute to house points. Children may also receive stickers or a certificate from the senior leadership team for pieces of home learning which demonstrate excellence for that individual.

Home learning tasks

Foundation Stage (Year R) and KS1 (Year 1 and 2)

- Reading and sharing books with an adult at least 3 times per week; adults to keep a signed record in the Reading Record
- 10 common exception words sent home weekly for spelling and to read by site
- Children may be given additional 'top-up' practice of phonic sounds and/or vocabulary to practice (fridge words)
- Half termly whole school foundation topic project (Autumn 1 History, Autumn 2 Science etc)

Lower Key Stage 2 (Years 3 and 4)

- Reading and sharing books with an adult at least 3-5 times per week; adults to keep a signed record in the Reading Record
- 10 common exception words sent home weekly for spelling and to read by site
- Practise times tables using Times Tables Rockstars (optional)
- Half termly whole school foundation topic project (Autumn 1 History, Autumn 2 Science etc)

Upper Key stage 2 (Years 5 and 6)

- Reading and sharing books at least 3-5 times per week; reading record to be signed.
- 10 common exception words sent home weekly for spelling and to read by site.
- Practise times tables using Times Tables Rockstars (optional)
- Half termly whole school foundation topic project (Autumn 1 History, Autumn 2 Science etc)

Expectations

It is the expectation that all children will engage and practice their reading and spelling home learning at least 3 times per week. Pupils have choice in curriculum home learning projects and are encouraged to bring them in to school upon completion.

Dates for handing homework in are always made explicit by the class teacher.

If you have a concern regarding homework, please talk to your child's class teacher.

How you can help your child with their home learning?

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

- providing a suitable space in which your child can do their home learning
- making it clear to your child that you value home learning and support the school in explaining how it can help learning
- encouraging your child and praising them when they have completed their home learning

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)
- talking to your child about schoolwork, their day, what they have been learning about and how they have been learning

Home learning is about reinforcing, practicing and confidence building and children always learn best when they are having fun!