

Ashmead Primary School

Home Learning Policy

Reviewed: May 2016
Next review due: May 2017

Ashmead Primary School Home Learning Policy

We expect all the children to work hard throughout the school day and therefore their time outside school should predominantly be for rest and relaxation and learning in different ways. Going to Brownies, Beavers, swimming, dance and football clubs and so on are very valuable uses of time. Equally valuable is time spent at home relaxing with family and playing, talking, and seeing friends.

We also believe that a carefully balanced home learning programme is beneficial for the children for the following reasons:

- ◆ To give parents opportunities to be directly involved in their child's learning
- ◆ To consolidate skills learnt in school and give opportunities to increase enthusiasm for learning
- ◆ To help children learn skills of independence and perseverance

Home learning is expected and children are strongly encouraged to complete it to support their learning. It is most effective and productive when done in a supportive, secure environment when time is set aside (and ideally the television is switched off!). We have found that children who are helped with their home learning, particularly their reading, make much better progress. At Ashmead, children are praised for doing their home learning, they are not punished for not doing their home learning: the class teacher will follow up with the parents of those children who are not completing home learning tasks regularly.

The purpose and focus of the home learning will develop as the children progress through the school.

The home learning set in each year group will be reviewed at the beginning of each school year to make sure it continues to be relevant to the children's learning needs.

We use the "My Maths" website for maths consolidation. We would expect children from Years 2 to 6 to use this at least once a week but it is available for more frequent access for children who would enjoy this.

We also offer an online reading support program, "Bug Club", for children from Reception to Year 6. This offers children the chance to read books online, answer comprehension questions and practise grammar, punctuation and spelling exercises.

A home learning club is available for children who have trouble accessing "My Maths" or "Bug Club" from home.

Guidelines: (year group by year group, to be reviewed annually)

Nursery and Reception

Parents and carers are encouraged to talk about their child's learning with their child to build on and extend their enthusiasm. Using their individual Tapestry observations or posts from the blog can support you in starting these conversations and making them relevant to the child's current learning.

Children should read with an adult every day. At this age this will predominantly mean sharing books together with the adult reading to the child. This might be using books from their bookbag, books from home or books online, for example using "Bug Club". Some children (probably in Reception) will be ready to read simple books and this should be encouraged in consultation with the class teacher.

Learning journey expectations: we endeavour to share these books with you each half term and expect adults to share these with their child. We also encourage parents to add in their own photos or comments to ensure that we are sharing the learning that each child is doing at home too – this a great activity to do together!

Sound scrapbooks (Reception): these are sent home each week in the Autumn and Spring terms to consolidate the children's learning about the new sounds taught/learnt each week.

Years 1 and 2

My Maths at the child's level is introduced as an option for some children in Year 1 and from Year 2, the expectation is that one activity a week is completed. Children are welcome to use the website as much as they wish beyond this.

Children should be read to and should be heard reading every day for around 10 minutes. Please keep the emphasis on reading as a pleasurable, shared activity – children who feel pressured do not progress well in their reading! Bug Club is available for children in Y1 and Y2 to consolidate reading skills.

A topic-related piece of home learning is set before the start of each new topic (usually half-termly).

Years 3 and 4

My Maths at the child's level should be used weekly. Children are welcome to use the website as much as they wish beyond this.

Children should read every day for at least 20 minutes. This should be for around 15 – 20 minutes and can be independent or child to adult and adults reading books to children should continue as well. Reading should continue to be a pleasurable, shared activity. Bug Club is still available for children in Y3 and Y4 to consolidate reading and comprehension skills.

A topic-related piece of home learning is set before the start of each new topic (usually half-termly).

Years 5 and 6

My Maths at the child's level should be used weekly. Children are welcome to use the website as much as they wish beyond this.

Children should read every day for at least 20 minutes. This will probably be independent but even at this age reading to adults should be encouraged. Parents often stop reading to their children at this age but children still really enjoy and benefit from this. As for the youngest children, reading should continue to be a pleasurable, shared activity as much as possible.

A topic-related piece of home learning is set before the start of each new topic (usually half-termly).

Spelling: Where developmentally appropriate, all children in Y1 – Y6 will be given a home spelling book which they will take home every Friday and return to school the following Wednesday. This might include spelling patterns, word groups, common exception word lists or 'tricky' words for that child, which they can practise and learn at home to apply to their writing in school.