

## **Garnteg Primary School** **Homework Policy**

Garnteg Primary School is committed to working in close partnership with parents to secure the learning of children. This document provides information on the planning, setting and monitoring of homework along with our role as teachers and yours as parents.

### **Why is homework set?**

Homework is set to:

- Consolidate work the children have been doing in class
- Prepare for future class work
- Investigate and use resources outside the school environment, e.g. library, museum etc
- Help them begin to develop skills in independent working
- Encourage ownership and responsibility for learning
- Train them in the planning and organising of their time
- Provide information for parents
- Provide opportunities for parents to co-operate and support
- Create home and school dialogue

### **What kind of homework is set?**

#### **Foundation Phase –**

Each class will have spelling tests on their specific days. For this reason spellings and homework will be given out on different days. Indicate in class handbooks at the beginning of the autumn term when your spelling test days are and therefore when spellings and homework will be sent home.

On the specified day, the child should have the following homework:

- Reading book
- Numeracy
- Spellings

#### **Reading**

We recommend 5 - 10 minutes reading each day. Each child will have a home reader, at an appropriate level. These will be changed and sent home on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Children who are free- readers will be able to choose their own book to read at home. Although children who are on free-readers already have a high level of reading, we advise that parents still listen to their children read on a regular basis for you to enjoy reading together.

#### **Numeracy**

Each term teachers will send home a pamphlet containing the skills that will be covered in numeracy for that term. Each week the child will receive numeracy

homework that they have worked on that week and will need to complete and return by the end of the following week.

## **Spellings**

Children must receive spellings that are appropriate for them. Children must have between 5-10 spellings per week. There should be enough allocated time for them to learn the spellings throughout the course of the week ready for their test on the specified day.

## **Key Stage 2.**

On a Friday afternoon the child should leave school with the following homework:

- Reading book
- Numeracy
- Spellings

## **Reading**

We recommend 10 – 15 minutes reading 5 times a week as a part of homework. Each child will have a home reader, at an appropriate level. These will be changed and sent home on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday. These will be changed weekly by the class teacher or teaching assistant. Mobile Library books in upper KS2.

Children who are free- readers will be able to choose their own book to read at home. Although children who are on free-readers already have a high level of reading, we advise that parents still listen to their children read on a regular basis for you to enjoy reading together.

## **Numeracy**

Each term teachers will send home a pamphlet containing the skills that will be covered in numeracy for that term. Each week the child will receive numeracy homework that they have worked on that week and will need to complete and return by the Wednesday of the following week.

## **Spelling**

Each week the class teacher will send home a list of words for your child to learn. This list will be suited to your child's spelling age. Where a child is making excellent progress they will be given more challenging words to learn. There should be enough allocated time for them to learn the spellings throughout the course of the week ready for their test on a Friday.

## **Other areas of study**

Your child may be asked to research a particular topic. They can use a variety of sources for this, such as books, documentaries, the internet, relatives etc. They will be given the resources to complete this study by their class teacher. Sometimes, a work sheet will be given for them to complete, at other times the children will be expected to extract relevant information and organise it into an appropriate structure. This is training them to plan and organise effectively.

Practical activities may require you working with your child. Remember, this is working with **them** and not doing it all for them.

Some activities will require your child to practice something they have just done in class. This gives them an opportunity to practice in their newly acquired skill. If they complete it easily, that is good. Let us know.

**Our chief criteria in setting homework tasks are the purpose and quality of the activity rather than the quantity.**

### **Learning logs/homework books.**

**Your child will have a learning task to complete every 2 weeks. This is in addition to reading, spelling and numeracy, however will not be required to be completed within the week.**

### **Foundation Phase**

At the start of the academic year, each child will be provided with a homework/learning log book. Every other Friday a learning task will be set in their homework books that the children are required to complete and return by a week Wednesday ready for the work to be marked and house points to be awarded to the children during the Pupil of the Week assembly that Friday.

The tasks that will be set will cover other areas of the curriculum and it is the child's choice how they interpret the task. Children may use ICT to complete their task, or be creative by drawing or making something that is related to what they are learning. The extra time is provided in order for children and their parents to take their time and produce quality pieces of work that can then be displayed within the school.

### **Key Stage 2.**

At the start of the academic year, each child will be provided with a homework/learning log book. At the beginning of each topic, children will receive a mind map of activities related to the topics that are covered within a range of curriculum areas together with the value of house points they will receive when they complete the task. Every other Friday, each child needs to select the activity they wish to work on, and they are required to complete and return by a week Wednesday ready for the work to be marked and house points to be awarded to the children during the Pupil of the Week assembly that Friday.

Each child can interpret and complete their activity in any way that they see fit, whether that is through the use of ICT, art, photography, writing or any other form. The extra time is provided in order for children and their parents to take their time and produce quality pieces of work or extended writing that can then be displayed within the school.

## **Homework Rules**

- Homework is intended to be a shared process between child and grown up.
- You can do as much or as little as you wish
- Homework will be celebrated and rewarded with certificates and pupil rewards

As always, children will be bringing home a book to share and enjoy. Please return the book at least once a week. Reading is important to reinforce the strategies learnt in school during guided reading and shared reading where text is more challenging. The home reader should be a comfortable read in order to promote enjoyment of reading.

### **When is the best time to do homework?**

The best time for your child is a time negotiated between yourselves. Bed time is a nice time for sharing a book, telling a story or, for older children, reading for pleasure.

### **Monitoring Homework**

Responsibility falls on the child and parent for the completion of homework, this will be collected by the class teacher when required (notification will be given prior to the date).

Learning logs will be marked by the class teacher or peer marked.

### **Rewards and Sanctions**

While there are no specific sanctions for failure to return or complete homework and we have no desire to introduce any, we firmly believe that homework is a crucial aspect of learning. Teachers will set homework which is useful and relevant and will record the names of the pupils who consistently fail to undertake the homework tasks. Parents/Guardians of those pupils will be notified of this fact and their support pursued.

Children who have successfully completed their tasks in their learning logs will receive points for their specified house. Any work that is of good quality will be displayed around the school.

If your child is having difficulty with completing the homework task, please let us know.

**Please note that your child may not have written homework every night. Reading will always be an expectation.**

*Inclusive Learning* where parents/guardians and children work together as **learning partners or supporters**, is important in developing the skills for learning.

## **EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES**

Garnteg Primary School is committed to equality, including racial equality, for all members of the school community. The school promotes a positive and proactive approach to valuing and respecting diversity, and will not tolerate racial harassment of any kind.

Ratified: 13<sup>th</sup> October 2015 by the Governing body of Garnteg Primary School : *Mr K Gauntlett*

Due for Review: October 2017