



Home Learning

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What is home learning?

Home learning is anything that children do outside the normal school day that contributes to their learning either on their own or with others. Home learning encompasses a whole variety of activities initiated by teachers and parents to support children's learning. For example, a parent who spends time reading a story to their child before bedtime is helping with home learning.

Rationale

At Moss Lane School, home learning is considered an important part of a child's education, playing a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment. The government made clear its commitment to home learning in the 1997 White Paper, 'Excellence in Schools', where home learning was seen as 'an essential part of good education'. We recognise that the time and resources available in school limit the educational experience that any school by itself can provide. Children benefit greatly therefore from the mutual support and partnership of parents and teachers who encourage them to learn both at home and at school. Indeed we see home learning as an important way of maintaining a successful dialogue between teachers and parents. One of the aims of our school is for children to develop as independent learners. Home learning is one way in which children can acquire this skill.

We acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development. While home learning is important, it should not prevent children from becoming involved in the wide range of out-of-school clubs and organisations that enrich the lives of many children. Children spend more time at home than at school, and we believe they develop their skills, interests and talents to the full only when encouraged to make maximum use of the experiences and opportunities that are available outside school.

Home learning Tasks Aim to:

- enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development
- help pupils develop as independent learners
- promote a dialogue between home and school in supporting each child's learning
- enable the curriculum to be covered in sufficient depth and breadth
- provide educational experiences in addition to those available in school
- practice skills, consolidate and reinforce learning taught in school
- help children develop good work habits for the future

Types of home learning

We set a variety of home learning activities. These include:

- Regular reading (children are given choosing books to take home to read with their parents alongside online reading scheme books.
- phonics, spellings & keywords
- finding out about a topic at home prior to studying it in school
- collecting things that we then use in lessons
- occasionally we ask children to complete a task at home that they have started in school
- studying a topic or researching a particular subject, where possible, using the school and local library, the Internet and CD-ROMs
- researching and presenting on a topic the children have chosen

As children move through the school we continue to give them the sort of home learning activities that support the development of basic skills where necessary, but we expect them to do more tasks independently. Home learning is also set as a means of ensuring that prior learning has been understood.

Time Allocation

The Government recommend the following time allocation for home learning:-

Years 1 and 2- 1 hour per week reading, spellings, other literacy, number and topic work.

We gradually increase the amount of home learning given to children as they move through the school.

Throughout the school we expect children to be doing daily reading and key words. Moss Lane teachers will normally set home learning tasks once a week on a Thursday. This will be over and above the usual reading tasks. These will be recorded in your child's "Wonder Book", which should be returned to school on the following Tuesday. This learning may also contain work from class that the child can then share with their parents. In addition children may want to share their own home learning or experiences e.g. visiting a museum, going swimming, and taking part in clubs etc all of which are invaluable developmental activities. Children also need time after school to play, socialise and engage in child type activities.

Guidelines for learning outlined below:

	Reading	Phonics, spelling and Key words practice	Wonder work activity to be given out on a Thursday & returned on a Tuesday for all classes
Year R	Daily 10 mins	Phonics and key words 5 x a week (5 mins) Wonder work activity will sometimes be phonic related	An interactive activity to be completed at home.
Year 1	Daily 10-15 mins	Phonics /spellings / Key words 5x a week (10 mins each)	
Year 2	Daily 15 mins	Spellings /Key words 5 x a week (10 mins each)	20-30 mins

Home Learning tasks should not be onerous nor should they cause conflict at home. Too often home learning can become a battle ground. At Moss Lane, we would rather home learning activities to be challenging, interesting and enjoyable. Each child will complete home learning tasks in a separate book called a "Wonder book". Parents and teachers can write in the book if they wish. If parents have any concerns or questions about home learning, they should contact the child's class teacher. If the questions are of a more general nature, they should contact the Headteacher.

Where there is evidence of home learning tasks not being completed on a consistent basis, teachers will contact parents/carers to discuss any issues

surrounding tasks. We believe that children of this age learn best with support from adults. The **Quality** of learning and dialogue is worth more than the **Quantity** of finished work.

Feedback to children on home learning

We recognise that completed home learning should be acknowledged and praised. As outlined previously, feedback will either be written or verbal. All tasks should be clear and it is this that will be assessed or addressed on the pupil's return to school. All classes will have an opportunity to look at and discuss their home learning on a Wednesday.

Pupils with Additional Educational Needs

We set home learning for all children as a normal part of school life. We ensure that all tasks set are appropriate to the ability of the child. If a child has special needs, we endeavour to adapt any task set so that all children can achieve at their own level.

Reading

We encourage children to read at home on a daily basis. We expect your co-operation in hearing your child read, discussing their book and writing a relevant comment in their yellow reading diary. The teacher and parents are to use the reading diary to enable an effective dialogue between home and school as well as monitoring the different home learning tasks that the children will be involved in. To further support your child's development, please continue to read books to them. Children will hand in their reading records to be checked for an adult's signature. We expect children to have their reading diary in school on a **daily** basis and also to take it home everyday.

General

Parents have a vital role to play in their child's education and home learning is an important part of this process. We ask parents to encourage their child to complete the set home learning tasks. Parents are invited to help their children as they feel necessary and to provide them with the sort of environment that allows children to do their best. This includes:

- providing a good working space at home
- enabling their child to visit the library regularly
- discussing the work that their child is doing
- providing access to on-line resources if applicable

Monitoring and Review

The Headteacher will report to the Governing Body on the way in which home learning is organised in the school.