

Home Learning at Tewin Cowper Primary

Dear Parents and Carers,

Tewin Cowper Primary are passionate about equipping every child with the academic tools they need to be successful in secondary school and beyond. In order to do this in an informed way, we look at what research says about the most effective ways of doing things and shape our policies to match.

What does research say?

- Overall, homework in primary schools does not appear to lead to large increases in learning.
- Activities that involve the parent and child working together on something or talking about work in school can be effective
- Regular daily homework in the form of worksheets which a child is expected to do unaided can have a negative effect in terms of putting children off learning and diverting parents away from doing positive educational activities with their children and instead putting their energy into nagging children to do their homework.
- The most effective thing any parent can do to help their child succeed at school is to read stories to them every night.

Planning, collecting and marking homework takes a lot of staff time. Since research shows that formal homework does not lead to increases in learning, we therefore consider it to be poor stewardship of the limited resource of staff time to waste it on something that is unlikely to be productive.

So rather than homework, we promote home learning. Home learning aims to:

- Recognise and celebrate learning that already happens at home
- Promote parents and children reading and talking together
- Encourage perseverance, self-discipline and pupils taking responsibility for their own learning
- Enabling classwork to concentrate on those things that require the teacher's presence.

Compulsory home learning: basic skills practice

- **Reading**

All children will be expected to read their school reading book (see timetable for more detail). The more children practice reading, the easier and more enjoyable it will become. There is not enough time in during the school day for children to practice as often as they need to - so doing this at home is vital. The more parents read to their children, the larger their vocabulary will grow and the more they will develop their own love of reading. This is as true of children in years 5 and 6 as it is of children in year 1. Please don't wait for books to be changed in school - you can always choose age appropriate books from home or the library.

- **Number facts and Spellings**

Children must spend a few minutes each day revising their number facts (bonds and timetables)

and spellings. Ten minutes every day is much more effective than an hour once a week. The more children practice these, the easier they will be to remember. The quicker they can remember them automatically, the more their brain has space to work on other, higher level things.

Year Group	Compulsory learning	Approximate timing
Reception	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading • Counting - forward and backwards • Recapping initial sounds / high frequency words. 	10 mins 5 mins 5 mins
Year 1&2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading • Year 1 Number bonds and count in groups of 2, 5 and 10 • Year 2 Number bonds and times tables (2,5,10) • Practise any spellings that are sent home including the Common Exception spelling words 	20 mins 5 mins 5 mins 5 mins
Year 3,4,&5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading • Year 3 Times tables (2,3,4,5,8,10) • Year 4 All of the times tables • Year 5 All of the times tables - rapid recall and division facts • Practise spellings from the Year 3 and 4 Common Exception Word List 	20-30 mins 5 mins 5 mins 5 mins 5 mins
Year 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading • Year 6 All of the times tables - rapid recall, including division facts and square numbers • Maths worksheet • Grammar worksheet • Practise spellings from the Year 3 and 4 Common Exception Word List or the Year 5 and 6 Common Exception Word List 	20-30 mins 5 mins 5 mins 10 mins 5 mins

With the maths practice (for example Times Tables) this is not something that the class teacher will send home but more for children to do verbally at home. For example counting up in multiples of 3 or practising number bonds to 10 - you say 7, they say 3 etc.

Additional Challenges

Teachers may send home project based home learning tasks over the course of the half term or term which will be linked to our topic themes. These will support any learning completed in class. This will be at the discretion of the teacher. Teachers may also choose to send home extra practice of learning that needs to be revised - again this is at the discretion of the class teacher. All learning is checked and revisited but may not necessarily be formally marked with a pen.

Year 6

In order to get year 6 ready for secondary school (where regular homework will be expected daily) children in year 6 will be set additional compulsory tasks in English and maths, on top of the home learning outlined above.

Children with statements or Education and health plans (EHCP)

The compulsory element of the home learning tasks may be modified for children with an education and health plan or statement, to best fit in with their needs. Where this is necessary this will be discussed with parents,

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to come and see me.

Kind regards,

Rachael Mileham

Assistant Headteacher