

Templefield Lower School

Homework Policy



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Aims

The aim of our homework policy is to promote lifelong learning beyond the school day. We believe the purpose of homework is to:

- Provide opportunities for parents/carers, pupils and the school to work together in partnership in relation to the child's learning.
- Promote a life-long love of reading.
- Consolidate and reinforce key learning in school and assist in preparation for future class work, particularly in English and Maths.
- Extend the learning experience beyond the classroom.
- Develop good work habits, confidence and self-discipline for the future.
- Develop the skills and attitudes necessary for independent learning.
- Use it as a tool to help continue to raise standards of achievement.

From Reception to Year 4, homework activities provide a valuable opportunity for the practice and reinforcement of key reading, writing and maths skills in a supportive environment. All children are expected to take part in a variety of homework tasks to enhance and support their learning in class.

Homework expectations

The emphasis of homework activities is on the development of key skills in English and Maths. It is our policy to set homework as follows:

Year group(s)	Approximate time allocation	Homework activities
Reception	1 hour – 1½ hours per week	Reading to a parent/carer for 5 – 10 minutes daily Practicing flashcards (e.g. sounds or key words) and letter formation daily Practicing NumBots for 3 – 5 minutes daily and/or maths activities to support work in class
Years 1 and 2	1 hour – 1½ hours per week	Reading to a parent/carer for 5 – 10 minutes daily Practicing spellings on Spelling Shed for 5 minutes daily Weekly English task to support work in class Practicing NumBots or Times Tables Rock Stars for 3 – 5 minutes daily and/or maths activities linked to fluency passports
Years 3 and 4	1 ½ hours to 2 hours per week	Reading to a parent/carer for 10 – 15 minutes daily Practicing spellings on Spelling Shed for 5 minutes daily Weekly English task to support work in class Practicing NumBots or Times Tables Rock Stars for 5 minutes daily and/or maths activities linked to fluency passports

The logins for Spelling Shed, NumBots and Times Tables Rock Stars are in the children's reading records.

Teachers will also provide optional homework linked to the current topic for those children who would like to extend their learning in other areas of the curriculum.

How parents/carers can support their child:

- Provide somewhere peaceful for them to work without the distractions of television, other family members and pets.
- Make sure they are sitting at a table and have good light.

- Provide encouragement and support when needed.
- Support the school in explaining and valuing homework.
- Encourage them and praise them when the homework is completed.
- Be actively involved in the homework (particularly of younger children).
- Share with the school any issues arising from homework, for example, by writing a comment in the reading record.

If parents/carers have any problems or questions about homework, they should, in the first instance, speak to their child's class teacher.

Children are expected to:

- Make full use of any opportunities they are presented with.
- Tackle homework tasks promptly and with a positive attitude.
- Take pride in their presentation and content, acknowledging the high personal standard expected.
- Be organised to look after and return books, and completed tasks on the agreed dates.

Inclusion

We recognise that for some children with Special Education Needs or Disabilities (SEND), completing homework can present additional challenges.

A reduction in the time spent completing homework may be appropriate for some children with SEND. This will be agreed through discussion between the parent/carer and class teacher.

Alternative methods of recording may be more appropriate for children with SEND and should also be agreed through discussion between the parent/carer and class teacher.

Provision can also be made in school for children with SEND to complete their homework with a member of staff during the school day.

We recognise that every child is unique and not all disabilities are visible. We expect parents/carers to communicate with their child's class teacher if their child is experiencing any difficulty with homework. Class teachers will make every effort to make reasonable adjustments to homework to allow every child to achieve and succeed.

Stationary packs are available for children in receipt of Pupil Premium funding. If your child is eligible, please speak to their class teacher.

Monitoring and feedback

Teachers will monitor how often the children are using Spelling Shed, NumBots and Times Tables Rock Stars, and check the progress they are making.

Teachers will provide feedback on homework in a variety of ways, including:

- Whole-class feedback
- Verbal or written comments
- Use of self or peer marking
- Dictation to test spellings
- Fluency tests for number facts / times tables

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