



Homework Policy Finchale Primary School

Introduction

Homework is anything that children do outside of the normal school day that contributes to their learning in response to guidance from the school. Homework encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents/carers to support children's learning. For example, a parent who spends time reading a story to their child before bedtime is helping with homework.

Some tasks that are set can be accessed online, such as TT Rockstars, which helps children practise their times tables, or Reading Plus, where children can access a range of texts and answer questions to help develop their comprehension skills. If you require support to enable your child to access online homework tasks or learning from home, please contact the school office (01913865187) or email school finchale@durhamlearning.net.

Rationale for homework

Homework is an important part of a child's education and can add much to their development. The government made clear its commitment to homework in the 1997 White Paper, 'Excellence in schools', where homework was seen as 'an essential part of good education'. We recognise that the time and resources available limit the educational experience that any school by itself can provide. Children benefit greatly from the support of parents/carers and teachers in encouraging them to learn and to practise skills both at home and at school. Homework can also be a good way of establishing a successful dialogue between teachers and families. At Finchale, we want children to develop as independent learners and we believe that homework can encourage them to acquire the skills needed to do so.

Whilst homework plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment, we also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development and would not want homework to prevent children from taking part in the wide range of out-of-school activities that play an important part in their lives. Children spend more time at home than at school, and we believe they develop their skills, interests and talents to the full when parents/carers encourage them to make maximum use of opportunities that are available outside of the school.

Aims and objectives

The aims and objectives of homework are to:

- enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development;
- provide further opportunities to practise specific skills or consolidate learning;
- help pupils develop the skills of an independent learner;
- promote a partnership between home and school in supporting each child's learning;
- help children develop good work habits for the future.

Organisation

Children will be provided with homework books or wallets in which to return work completed at home. Please encourage children to take responsibility for completing and returning their work. The table below outlines the types of homework that is typically set each week for different age groups. Teachers will look at homework for an assessment point of view, to identify misconceptions that children may have, but will not regularly mark homework.

Generative artificial intelligence (AI)

Artificial intelligence (AI) tools, including generative chatbots such as ChatGPT, are now widespread and easy to access. Finchale Primary School recognises that AI has many uses to help pupils learn but may also lend itself to cheating and plagiarism. Pupils may use AI tools, with adult permission, as a research tool to help them find out about new topics and ideas, but we ask

that pupils do not use AI tools to write their homework or class assignments, where AI-generated text is presented as their own work, or as an alternative to engaging in practical learning.

	Early Years (Reception)	Key Stage 1 (Y1 & Y2)	Key Stage 2 (Y3-Y6)
Reading	Children will bring books home each week. Please read and discuss these together and record in reading diaries. We ask that books and diaries are returned to school on a daily basis. Children will be rewarded with 'Dojo Points' at school for consistently reading at home. We encourage reading any texts for pleasure as often as possible.	Children will bring books (Monster Phonics and/or Reading for Comprehension) home each week. Please read and discuss these together and record in reading diaries. We ask that books and diaries are returned to school each week. Children will be rewarded with 'Dojo Points' at school for consistently reading at home. We encourage reading any texts for pleasure as often as possible. We will share 'VIPERS' bookmarks with suggested talking points for families.	Children will bring books home weekly. We ask that children read aloud to an adult at least once a week. Children and/or adults should acknowledge their reading in their reading diaries. We ask that books and diaries are returned to school each week. Children will be rewarded with 'Dojo Points' at school for consistently reading at home. For children who are still working on their reading fluency, we also encourage the use of Reading Plus (online). Children will be rewarded for completing Reading Plus levels with certificates in school. We encourage reading any texts for pleasure as often as possible. We will share 'VIPERS' bookmarks with suggested talking points for families.
Phonics & Spelling	Children will be given High Frequency word lists to practise at home in line with the school's Monster Phonics scheme. They will also be given 'blending books' when ready to blend words.	Spelling homework will be set each week. Children may bring home focus sounds and words that they are working on, in line with our Monster Phonics scheme. Children may still bring 'blending books' home if working on blending or may begin to work on common exception / High Frequency words. Children are also encouraged to find other words that fit the focus phonics / spelling rule.	Children will bring home a list of 'Superhero Spellings' to learn. We will provide children with a range of strategies which they can use to learn these spellings and a weekly spelling check, such as a dictation, will be used to assess their recall. Common exception words (words picked up within English lessons that are often misspelled) may also be included in spelling practise lists, and children will. Children are also encouraged to find other words that fit the focus spelling rule.
Maths	We ask that families play maths-related games, such as singing counting songs or playing board games, to consolidate children's knowledge of number.	Children will have access to Numbots (online) on which they can practise their number facts weekly. They will be rewarded with a Numbots certificate for completing levels. If they have completed the Numbots levels, Year 2 children may be given a login for TTRS (Times Tables Rock Stars) to rehearse multiplication tables. Children may also bring home maths work related to their learning in class.	Children will have access to TTRS (Times Tables Rock Stars online) which they can use to practise their multiplication facts weekly. Dojo points will be rewarded for consistent use of TTRS. Children may also bring home maths work related to their learning in class.
Other	Other suggested activities linked to class learning / topics may also be sent home on a less regular basis. These could be: - Consolidation of a concept that a child needs further practise with; - Pre-learning of a concept in preparation for a new topic - Handwriting exercises (e.g. fine motor or letter formation sheets) - Grammar or punctuation activities to support writing - Reading comprehension tasks - Research or creative projects linked to a topic - Revision for an assessment, such as Y6 SATs or the Phonics Screening / Multiplication Checks		