

# HOMWORK AT DARTFORD PRIMARY ACADEMY

At Dartford Primary Academy we provide all children with homework to enable them to practise skills and develop their understanding of topics they have learnt about in school. Sometimes the aim is to repeat something done in class as a practise exercise. At other times, the homework will ask children to apply their learning to a new context. At all times, however, children will not be given work to do at home that they have not learned in school unless it is a project which asks them to find out about something new. For example, to do their own project about the Romans.

## Our Aims

We aim to provide opportunities for parents/carers to work alongside their child or children to support their learning in school. This is because we want to work as a partnership in your child's learning – school, the child and their parents working together to help your child to reach their potential.

As guidance only, we suggest the following:

### **Nursery and Reception**

- To learn nursery rhymes, songs and read books together. Nursery Rhymes packs are sent home weekly in the first two terms.
- Talk about the difference between pictures and words, titles, authors' names and predict what will happen next in the story.
- Read poems and rhymes and information books as well as stories.
- Children have letter work to do at home and games to play.
- Once children can read, they should read their school book every day for approximately five minutes with the adult asking questions about the text.
- Maths games suggestions are sent home weekly. They help develop both knowledge of numbers and counting as well as mathematical language, e.g. longer/ shorter, in front/ above, etc.

### **Year 1 and Year 2**

- Reading books are changed on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and children are encouraged to read to an adult daily at home. Children need to sound out and blend new words they come across and read 'tricky' words on sight, as well as discuss what the book is about.
- Mathematics tasks are set most weeks and consolidate what they have done in class that week. The class teacher then checks every Friday to see if the tasks have been completed. Any children who do not have access to the Internet at home are encouraged to let their class teacher know so that we can find a suitable time for the children to complete the tasks in school. Certificates are given out in Celebration assembly on Fridays.

- Spellings are sent home on Fridays, with a short test the following Friday. Please help your child practise these at home during the week.
- Topic homework is sent out at the beginning of the term and the children are given a choice of which challenge they want to complete. The children have the term to complete this.

### **Year 3 and year 4**

- To read their school book every single day at home, preferably to another person, for at least 15 minutes. Discuss the way we read punctuation as well as words, how bold or italic words are read differently. Look for how advanced punctuation is used. For example, speech marks, brackets, commas, apostrophes etc. It is very important that adults discuss these things with their child as they are not likely to notice them on their own.
- Spellings in are sent out on a Monday. Children are given 10 spellings to revise each night. The children are then tested on these on a Friday.
- Times tables are sent out on a Monday and the children are also encouraged to revise these each night. Children are then tested on these on a Friday.
- Mathematics homework is set on a Monday. It will be based on what we are covering in class each week. It gives children the opportunity to practice what they are learning in a fun way.
- Project work is a fun way to do homework. It will allow children to develop their creativity in how they wish to present their work and give them some freedom in developing the aspects of the research that particularly interest them. Within project work, children get the opportunity to develop their creative interests.

### **Year 5 and Year 6**

Many of the aspects of year 5 and 6's homework are in line with the homework for years 2 to 4 but require much more depth of study.

- Reading should increase to include regular sustained periods so that children develop the habit of 'getting into a good book'. (Reading a few pages every few days inhibits this).
- Although fluent readers are likely to be reading independently by this age, parents/carers still need to hear them to read out loud to develop their fluency in harder text types. Developing readers will still need reading support on a daily basis.
- A ten word spelling list is given out every Monday in Year 6. We expect the children to practise spelling these words at least two times during the week at home. Children are then tested on the spellings on Friday.
- Mathematics tasks are set every week in Year 6. These tasks are to consolidate what they have done in class the previous week. The class teacher then checks every Friday to see if the tasks have been completed. Any children who do not have access to the Internet at home are encouraged to let their class teacher know so that we can find a suitable time for the children to complete the tasks in school.
- All children in Years 5 and 6 will, from this year, be given research projects to do which will involve a range of skills and will involve using the internet (at home or

school). We would like children to include art and craft ideas as well as reading and writing within these projects and most of all, we want them to have fun whilst doing them.

### **Times Tables**

By year 2, all children need to learn their 2x, 5x and 10x tables fluently.

By year 3, all children need to continue to practise their 2x, 5x and 10x tables but to also learn their 3x, 4x, 6x, 7x, 8x and 9x tables.

By year 4, all children need to consolidate their times tables and improve the speed of their recall and learn what the corresponding division facts are. For example,  $7 \times 6 = 42$ . Also  $42 = 7 \times 6$ .

Our staff hope that you can support us in getting the balance right. We want to work together with you to do help your child be the best they can possibly be. If you have any concerns about the homework set, or, you feel that the homework is just right, please do contact your child's teacher.

It is worth noting that when children deliberately do not attempt to do homework (and this does not include when family emergencies occur), children will be invited to attend a homework club. Allowing one child to opt out of doing homework whilst everyone else is expected to complete it causes bad feeling amongst a class. We therefore make it very clear that we expect everyone to be treated equally and all children are required to complete homework.