

# Garstang Community Primary School

## Homework Policy

### September 2016

At Garstang Community Primary School we recognise the crucial importance of a strong partnership between home and school. Parents and carers play a huge role in their children's progress. Homework is just one of the ways in which we seek to foster an active partnership between home and school.

We believe that a balanced amount of regular homework enables our pupils to consolidate the skills learned at school, helps to develop good learning habits for the future and gives parents an insight into their child's learning.

At Garstang Community Primary School we aim to provide a balance of homework that creates opportunities for our pupils to:

- develop, practise and consolidate basic skills in mathematics
- become confident, independent readers with a life-long love of reading
- learn to spell key words and spelling rules
- develop independent research and learning skills
- be creative and follow their interests
- present their ideas in a variety of ways

#### Reading

We recognise and appreciate the huge part that parents play in their child's progress in English, especially reading. It is at home that a child's love of reading is ignited. When parents read with their children, the child develops a broader vocabulary, a wider knowledge of the world around them and a deeper understanding of other people and cultures. Children who read for pleasure are exposed to a wealth of characters, worlds, events and phenomena. It is well documented that reading for pleasure has a huge impact on a child's future development and achievement. We strongly encourage all of our parents to read daily with their children. This reading should cover a range of genres, and include more than the home/school reading books. After reading with their child, adults make a record in their child's Reading Record, adding comments and praising effort. Children may also record a comment of their own.

Home reading books will be sent home in accordance with the following schedule:

Acorns (Reception) - Two books go home, change once per week

Rowan (Year 1) - Two books go home, change twice per week

Willow (Year 2) - Two books go home, change twice per week

Key Stage 2 - One book, changed when required

N.B. All of our pupils have access to our school library and may bring their chosen book home.

### **Spelling**

Learning spellings at home has a positive impact on a child's attainment in this area of the curriculum. We encourage parents to support their child's spelling as much as possible and daily practise is recommended.

From Year 1 upwards, pupils use a Home Spelling Journal in which to learn their spellings. Pupils are given five words per week to learn, using the full range of strategies outlined in our school Spelling Policy. Each pupil will be asked to bring their Home Spelling Journal to school once per week, in order for their class teacher to see their learning and for a new spelling list to be issued for the following week.

Pupils may also be given a list of additional words to learn at home. These may be words not yet learned from an earlier year group.

Children's progress in spelling is assessed through class activities, independent writing and termly spelling tests.

### **Maths**

All pupils are given a piece of maths homework to complete each week. Maths homework is usually basic skills work such as number bonds, times tables and key facts. These tasks may take the form of a game, cards and may be paper or web based.

### **Independent Projects**

Each pupil is asked to complete four projects per year, linked to an area of learning at school. These projects create opportunities for our pupils to work independently on an area which is of interest to them. We encourage our pupils to work as independently as possible, using their Learning Power behaviours. Teachers give their pupils a minimum of four weeks' notice to complete a project and all pupils completing a project receive a certificate of achievement.

### **Other homework**

- Maple Class (Year 4) - one piece of music homework each week linked to WOPPs
- Occasionally, pupils are asked to complete other homework activities such as research for a topic or gathering information for a specific lesson.