

PARENTS AND CARERS GUIDE TO HOMEWORK



Dear Parent/Carer,

This Homework Booklet explains the positive way that we can work in partnership for the benefit of your child.

Homework is an important part of your Child's learning, helping to reinforce key concepts and knowledge, preparing your child for future learning.

If you have any questions with regard to homework, in the first instance please contact your Child's form tutor.

WHY HOMEWORK IS IMPORTANT

Completing homework to the best of his/her ability will help your child to be more successful at school and to gain satisfaction and enjoyment from school work.

HOMEWORK

- Encourages independent working and shows if class work has been understood.
- Extends knowledge and enables pupils to develop ideas in more detail.
- Helps to develop the study skills that will be needed throughout your child's school career.
- Helps to develop good organisation and routines that will allow your child to cope with the demands of their learning.
- Gives pupils the skills to enable them to continue to learn after they have left school.
- Allows pupils to work at their own pace and encourages them to take responsibility for their own learning.
- Gives pupils the opportunity to use a wide range of resources and allows time for research, re-drafting and working with others.

FINDING OUT WHAT HOMEWORK HAS BEEN SET

Homework is set by the class teacher on a regular basis when it is appropriate to do so. English, Maths and Science should have a piece of homework each week. Other subjects which have fewer lessons will set homework at least per fortnight. Drama and Physical Education are the exceptions to this.

SCHOOL PLANNER

Your child will record their homework in their school planner. This will include a description of their homework along with a due date.

Please ensure that you check your child's planner every day to ensure that you are aware of what homework has been set.

EQUIPMENT

Pupils should all have the basic equipment - **pen (black or blue), green pen, pencil, rubber, ruler and coloured pencils**. They should also have **dictionaries and a scientific calculator**.

GETTING THE BEST OUT OF HOMEWORK

WHERE TO WORK

It is best to work in a quiet place.

It is not possible for pupils to produce their best work whilst watching television, listening to music or texting friends, no matter what they say! Working at a desk or on a table is best as it allows books to be spread out and care to be taken with presentation.

Your child may find a set routine will help in developing good working habits.

WHEN TO WORK

Homework should never be completed late at night. Tired children will not produce their best work.

Early evening may be the best time and it is advisable for the work to be completed fairly soon after arriving home from school in order to give pupils a chance to relax and socialise later in the evening.

HOW LONG TO WORK FOR?

This will vary from year to year and some children will take longer to complete a task than others. As a rough guide, pupils in Year 7 should spend approximately half an hour on each piece of work. It is important to monitor how long your child spends on homework - too long is as bad as not long enough. If your child tells you work has been completed in school, please insist on seeing it, to ensure it is up to standard.

HELP AVAILABLE AT KENTS HILL PARK SCHOOL

The school Library is open every lunchtime for a quiet place for pupils to do their homework.

It is equipped with a wide range of reference books, computer software and internet access to help pupils select books and appropriate information.

If your child does not understand any homework task please encourage them to ask their class teacher for help. Form tutors will also support with guidance and advice.

HOW TO HELP YOUR CHILD

You can help your child by:

- reading information to them;
- explaining what a question means;
- checking his/her work once it is complete and encouraging your child to correct mistakes;
- allowing him/her to discuss ideas with you;
- making suggestions about ways in which a task might be undertaken;
- helping to find the right reference materials;
- communicating with the school when there are concerns;
- helping to organise his/her work and time;
- supporting project work can help the task seem less daunting;
- encourage planned breaks during times homework is being done;
- encouraging your child to produce his/her best work by asking to look at what he/she has done and praising his/her efforts. Children like to please their parents and so your interest and enthusiasm for what they have done will encourage them to work hard.

HELPFUL HINTS

RESEARCH

Researching a topic develops pupil's ability to find and select information. They should find a book with information on the topic and read the information with care. They should then take notes which they can write up in their own words - they should not copy from the book! Information copied from the internet is useful as research but will not be accepted as a finished piece of homework.

REDRAFTING

Redrafting is a process for improving a piece of work and not just checking for errors. Children should be encouraged to look critically at what they have completed and then to suggest ways in which their work might be improved. When re-writing they should use a dictionary to check unfamiliar words.

ONLINE RESOURCES FOR HOMEWORK

There are a wide range of websites available to support your child with their homework and wider learning.

BBC Bitesize covers a wide range of subjects which are split into relevant topics. Link:
<https://www.bbc.com/bitesize>

Computing and ICT
https://hourofcode.com/uk
An introduction into a range of programming languages and problem solving. Interactive and motivational.
English
https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/subjects/z3kw2hv
Pupils can revise the core skills and knowledge learnt in English lessons. The reading section, in particular, covers a range of the elements already studied, for example: sentences, paragraphs and structure. The writing section will be useful for next half term, as we start a writing unit.

Languages
www.languagesonline.org.uk
Grammar and vocabulary exercises in both Spanish and French. Self-marking vocabulary and grammar activities on a range of topics from Y7-Y13.
www.euroclubschools.co.uk
Easy to read information on lots of cultural topics with accompanying quizzes and worksheets.
Mathematics
https://trockstars.com/
Times Tables Rock Stars is a carefully sequenced programme of daily times tables practice. Interactive and competitive.

SCIENCE
https://www.kerboodle.com
Topic based information and interactive quizzes and tasks.

READING

Encourage your child to read regularly. He/She should read a range of texts including novels, newspapers and online articles. You could read with your child and encourage him/her to read out loud.

IMPROVING PERFORMANCE

Should your child have time on his/her hands, there are many ways in which time can be spent usefully to improve his/her school work.

He/she could:

- check through his/her books and learn to spell any words they have corrected;
- learn new vocabulary for French, Spanish or Urdu, practise speaking using a tape recorder (or a patient parent!);
- read a novel;
- read a factual book on a subject under study;
- check that he/she knows all of his/her times tables;
- practise handwriting by re-writing untidy work in his/her exercise books;
- read through the work in his/her exercise books to ensure that he/she has fully understood it and can remember the key points;
- begin writing out revision notes on topics, ready for the end of unit tests or end of year exams;
- use the internet to read about any topics covered in lessons.