



# Pinehurst Primary School

## Home Learning Policy 2023-24

### Introduction

At Pinehurst Primary School we believe that education and learning is a life-long process that does not stop when a child leaves our school premises at the end of the day. Learning at home is an essential part of good education and an important life skill for children to develop.

When referred to in this document, Homework or Home Learning is any work or activity completed outside of regular lesson time, either alone or with parents or friends.

### Rationale

At Pinehurst we see the purpose of home learning tasks as follows:

- To develop an effective partnership between school and parents for each child's education. Children achieve more when teachers and parents work together!
- Consolidate/reinforce skills and understanding that have been learned in class to help children retain knowledge and skills long-term.
- Develop confidence, independence and the self-discipline needed for personal study in preparation for secondary school and beyond
- Provide opportunities for parents and children to work together to enjoy learning experiences

From the Early Years simple games, learning spellings, and of course, reading with parents provides valuable opportunities for the practice/reinforcement of key skills in a supportive environment. As children get older they need to develop the habit of regularly devoting short periods of time to personal study. All children are expected to take part in a variety of home learning tasks to enhance and support their work in school.

### Purpose of the Home Learning Policy:

- To ensure consistency of approach for children, parents and staff throughout the school.
- To ensure progression towards independence and individual responsibility
- To ensure parents/carers have a clear understanding about expectations for themselves and the pupils at our school
- To extend and support learning helping all children make progress and achieve their full potential
- To provide opportunities for parents and pupils to work in partnership and enjoy learning experiences together.
- To encourage all children at Pinehurst Primary School to develop independence, self-discipline and resilience.

## Home Learning Expectations

The emphasis of home learning activities is on the development of English and Maths skills. All children at Pinehurst will be expected to complete some form of home learning each week in addition to regular home reading. There may also be opportunities for children to do some project-based learning linked to our topics in the wider curriculum.

The home learning tasks children are set may look as follows:

Year Group	Activities
Early Years/ Foundation Stage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Daily reading to parents/phonics practice</li><li>• Short maths activities e.g. counting or singing</li><li>• A teacher directed task that links to the wider curriculum</li></ul>
KS1 Years 1 and 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reading to parents daily/phonics practice</li><li>• Numbots maths practice- a minimum of 20 minutes per week.</li><li>• Spellings weekly- linked to phonics</li><li>• Maths linked to classroom learning and specifically targeted maths as appropriate to individual children</li><li>• Topic research as appropriate</li></ul>
LKS2 Years 3 and 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Daily reading to parents and/or independent reading- logged in home reading diary</li><li>• Spellings – to be practised at home each week</li><li>• Tables / Number facts practice using TT Rockstars- a minimum of 30 minutes per week.</li><li>• Maths linked to classroom learning and specifically targeted maths as appropriate to individual children</li><li>• Topic research as appropriate</li></ul>
UKS2 Years 5 and 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Regular reading- independently or with an adult- logged in home reading diary.</li><li>• Regular curriculum home learning project-based tasks each half term.</li><li>• Maths linked to classroom learning and specifically targeted maths as appropriate to individual children</li><li>• English or Grammar tasks linked to classroom learning and specifically targeted</li><li>• Tables / Number facts practice using TT Rockstars- a minimum of 30 minutes per week.</li><li>• Spellings – to be practised at home each week</li></ul>

Please note: Tasks will vary as to the needs of the individual class and the individual child. This is not an exhaustive or comprehensive list.

### **Class Dojo**

It is our aim at Pinehurst Primary School that the majority of home learning tasks will be set via our community platform- Class Dojo. This platform allows teachers to more easily set tasks that meets the needs of different students, reduces a huge amount of paper wastage and helps to avoid the problem of losing work or forgetting to bring homework to school. By using Class Dojo, teachers are able to give feedback more quickly and efficiently so children can correct any mistakes or receive praise for their work.

The use of Class Dojo for certain tasks will be at the teacher's discretion as there may be times it is more suitable to send home a worksheet or task. We acknowledge that some children may find it difficult to complete their home learning task on the computer itself. Children are invited to write down their answers on paper and bring this to school if this is the case.

Pinehurst are supportive of children and families who may not have regular device and will provide laptops for the children's use if appropriate.

### **Expectations of Staff**

Teachers at Pinehurst will support this policy:

- By providing a wide range of tasks and activities.
- By ensuring that the children have a clear understanding of the tasks involved and a common understanding of the high expectations held of them individually, according to their ability
- By communicating with parents and keeping them informed of children's progress, projects and topics studied in class and their children's individual tasks.
- By providing feedback to the children and using rewards and praise to encourage them.
- By ensuring home learning tasks are engaging, varied and relevant to the children.

### **Expectations of Parents/Carers**

The parents and carers of children at Pinehurst can support this policy by:

- Provide somewhere peaceful for children to work without the distractions of television, other family members and pets
- Provide a suitable place equipped with a clear table space, chair and good light
- Provide encouragement and support to children when they require it
- Support the school in explaining and valuing home learning.
- Encourage pupils and praise them when home learning is completed
- Be actively involved in home learning tasks (particularly with younger children)
- Share with school any issues arising from home learning tasks for example by a comment in a reading record or a message on Class Dojo.

### Expectations of children:

It is the expectation that all children will at least **attempt** to complete home learning tasks to the best of their ability. If pupils need support to access these activities their teacher or classroom support staff will find a time to review it with them where possible. The children should:

- Make full use of any opportunities they are presented with
- Tackle home tasks promptly and with a positive, can-do attitude
- Take pride in their presentation and content, acknowledging the high standards expected
- Be organised to look after and return books and completed tasks on the agreed dates. Dates for handing tasks in are always made explicit by the class teacher.

In an instance where children are regularly not completing home learning tasks, they may be asked to complete the task during their break or lunch hour. This will be at the class teacher's discretion and the child and/or home circumstances will be taken in to account.

### Feedback

Feedback to children on their home learning tasks will be given promptly and may be given in a variety of ways

- Verbal response from parents or carers and teachers
- Class discussion/Review of the task
- A comment on Class Dojo
- Tests eg. Spellings or tables checks.
- Pupil/peer evaluation
- Presentation and praise of good work in class and/or school assembly

*Policy Written By: R.Fry (Curriculum Leader)*

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