



## HOMWORK POLICY: SUMMARY GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

Please read the full policy for further information. This can be accessed as a hard copy in the school office or online in the Documents section of our school website [www.sunnymede.-jun.ik.org](http://www.sunnymede.-jun.ik.org)

As a school, we value homework and believe it creates a partnership between home and school, consolidating and extending learning. It is expected that all children complete homework, in line with our Home School agreement. Children are rewarded for completing homework and children who do not complete it are in a very small minority.

### How much and what type of homework will my child receive?

The timings below are guidance / recommendations only. Apart from optional homework projects, homework is not set during holiday periods, though children should continue to read daily and practise their times tables.

\*In Year 3, this task is not set for the first half of the autumn term to allow pupils time to settle.

	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
<b>Daily Reading</b>	15 mins per night		20 mins per night	
<b>Spelling</b> (prep for spelling test)	5 mins per night			
<b>Daily Mental maths</b> (prep for maths test)	5 mins per night			
<b>Weekly online Maths Task</b> (Homework club available for any children without Internet access at home)	Approx 15 mins per week			
<b>Weekly English OR cross-curricular OR written/practical Maths Task*</b> *These will take place on a three week cycle	Approx. 1 hour per week (this may vary slightly from week to week)			N/A
<b>Weekly English Task</b> (comprehension, grammar, spelling and punctuation activities)	N/A			Approx 1 hour per week
<b>Other</b>	N/A		<b>Y6</b> An additional literacy task will be given most weeks from Spring term onwards. Past SATS maths questions will also be given from time to time.	

### When will homework be set and when must it be completed?

Please see the 'Homework Poster for Parents' later in this document.

### What do I need to know about daily reading?

Children bring home two books per week, one at their level and one at a higher challenge level and should read daily. They may also bring home a third 'free choice' book. Please take the time to check your child's understanding regularly by trying one or more of the suggested activities:

- Make detailed predictions at the start of the story or at key points as they read
- Answer specific questions about what they have read, particularly those using inference and 'reading between the lines'
- Explain the layout, structure, organisation of a text (particularly non-fiction)
- Express preferences for characters, settings, plots etc. and give reasons for their choices
- Summarise the plot in five sentences
- Describe the characteristics of key characters and relationships between the different characters
- Discuss alternative endings
- Compare and contrast a text with similar texts by the same / different authors
- Identify the 'themes' or key ideas in stories e.g. love, friendship, war, determination, equality

A reading prompt booklet with a range of questions that parents can use to help them ask their pupils direct questions in relation to texts read is sent out to all new Y3 parents and can be used throughout their time in the Junior school.

### What do I need to know about Spelling and Mental Maths tests / Weekly English / Creative task?

Please read the full policy for details of these tests and activities, how they are administered and how you can support your child at home.

### What is the weekly Online Maths Activity?

To be completed online using the 'Mathletics' programme (passwords are given at the start of the year). Teachers will set up a weekly task each Monday which should take pupils about 15 minutes to complete. Please talk to your child's teacher if you do not have internet access and would like your child to complete this task at homework club.

### **What is the optional homework?**

Some parents/carers and children like to engage in more homework than is agreed as part of this policy, particularly during holiday periods. Therefore, we set three homework projects per year that are OPTIONAL. More details can be found in the full policy. In addition to these projects, the online Maths programme can be used for your child to complete additional maths activities and challenges.

### **What homework books will my child bring home?**

**A reading record book:** for parents/carers/children to make comments about books being read at home.

Teachers also record a comment once a month in relation to their guided reading. To be brought to school daily

**A Test book:** for completing mental maths and spelling tests (children will bring home on a Friday so parents/carers can see their child's test results but should return it the following Monday)

**A Homework Diary:** Spelling words to be tested and focus for mental maths test will be recorded here, as will the creative / English or written maths task and online maths task

**A homework exercise book:** for completing the weekly English / creative or written/practical maths task where relevant. If work is completed on a worksheet or on paper, homework, children are asked to stick it in this book before returning it each Wednesday.

**READING RECORD BOOKS AND HOME/SCHOOL DIARY MUST BE BROUGHT TO SCHOOL DAILY**

### **Can I give feedback to the teacher about my child's homework?**

- This is encouraged. Please 'sign off' their child's homework by adding your initials next to the completed homework (weekly English / creative task). Parent/carers are also encouraged to make a comment in their homework exercise book next to the completed task e.g. indicate if they had no help or a lot of help, enjoyed the task etc.
- Please sign your child's home reading record book when they have read. Comments about how they got on with their reading (what they did well / needed help with etc) and what page they are up to is helpful.
- If you wish to make a general comment for the teacher about homework, or over a non-urgent matter unrelated to homework, you can do this in the homework diary. However, teachers do not look at each child's homework book daily but are more likely to check it once a week. If you want the comment to be acknowledged on a given day, it is the child's responsibility to pass the diary to the class teacher to alert them, thus encouraging them to take responsibility and become independent. Where a response is required, the teacher will record in the diary or speak to you directly. For urgent matters please arrange to meet with the teacher rather than use the homework diary.

### **How will homework be marked?**

- Homework will be marked provided it is returned on time (sometimes just one or two aspects of the piece of work will be the focus of the marking)
- Teachers will make a note in the home reading record book in relation to a child's guided reading once every 3 / 4 weeks.
- Sometimes 'peer assessment' will be used to mark homework e.g. spellings and maths tests. The teacher will always initial the peer marked work to confirm that they are happy with the marking completed by the child and that they have noted how well the child achieved.
- Children need to know how well they have done and what they could do better. Sometimes work will be discussed orally with the whole class or individuals in lessons as well as or instead of written marking.

### **Should I help my child with their homework?**

You are encouraged to help your child with homework– as long as you don't take over too much or do it for them. Ask the teacher if you are not sure how much to help. The following tips might help:

- Read the homework task with your child and discuss what is required to ensure they understand the task fully.
- Ask some simple questions to check your child's level of understanding.
- Ask how much help they think they need / agree a certain amount of time to spend on a given task
- Guide your child through the task, using questions to help them understand.
- Where research is required, help them to access safe and age appropriate websites and interpret relevant information.
- Consider helping the child to organise the materials they need and discuss how they will present their work.
- Praise and encourage your child; they usually respond to this
- Read through your child's completed work with them and check they have completed the task according to the instructions.

## **Homework Hints for Parents / Carers**

### **11 things you can do to help your child learn**

- 1.** Give your child confidence through lots of praise and encouragement throughout the process. Children thrive on feeling confident and parents are the best way to help children feel confident. Provide specific praise that focuses on a particular aspect of their work. Comments such as "I like the way you have..." is more effective than "you're clever".
- 2.** Read to, and with, your child as much as possible.  
*Show them that you enjoy reading too and show interest in what they are reading. Let them read to you or read to them from time to time. Ask them their opinion about the plot, characters and layouts and justify their choices using 'why' questions as prompts.*
- 3.** Make use of your local library / Visit museums and other places you think your child might find interesting.
  - *Look out for special events and services for children.*
  - *Children now have free admission to major national museums and art galleries. Try finding one linked to what your child is studying. They could even help you research a place to visit.*
- 4.** If your child likes watching television, watch it together sometimes and talk about what has been watched. Children enjoy sharing their experiences and will gain a lot from the discussion.
- 5.** Try to provide a reasonably quiet and suitable place where your child can work and show that you and all members of the family value and respect the homework activity.
- 6.** Try to set time aside to support your child's homework activities whilst also allowing some independence where appropriate. Agree how long you think the task should take and keep to that.
- 7.** Encourage your child to discuss homework with you, including feedback from teachers. Discuss the requirements of the task and decide with your child how much help they will need to complete the task well.
- 8.** Help your child to get organised, including preparation of any resources they will need. This is particularly important for younger children.
- 9.** Try to help your child to see the enjoyable aspects of homework. Remind them of the house points they receive for completing the task. Stop if it starts to become stressful and there is danger of conflict.
- 10.** Help your child to see the importance of homework and teach them to become more independent and take more responsibility for themselves as they get older.
- 11.** Remind your children to complete and take responsibility for handing in homework on time.

**Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns. We want your children to succeed.**



# HOMWORK POSTER FOR PARENTS

Please read the full homework policy on the school website for more detailed information about homework.

**BRING TO / FROM SCHOOL EVERY DAY**

- **Reading books x 2** (to read 15-20 minutes per night)
  - **Reading Record books** (yellow cover)
  - **homework diaries**

Day	Bring to school	Bring Home	Tests in school
<b>Monday</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Spelling/Maths test books</b> (that were brought home on Friday)</li> </ul>		
<b>Wednesday</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>English / creative/maths written task</b> in homework exercise book* (any sheets to be stuck in before returning)</li> </ul>		
<b>Friday</b>	N/B: Online Mathletics from previous week to have been completed at home	All recorded in homework diaries: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mental Maths test focus</b></li> <li>• <b>New Online Mathletics task focus</b></li> <li>• <b>Spelling/Maths test book</b></li> <li>• <b>Spelling test words</b> (recorded in homework diaries)</li> <li>• <b>English / creative / Maths written task set *</b> (*If a worksheet is brought home it should be stuck in the homework exercise book before returning to school)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Spelling test</b></li> <li>• <b>Mental Maths test</b></li> </ul>

-Year 6 pupils may have additional homework from spring term onwards.

.\*For Year three pupils, this task is not set until after the October half term.

-**OPTIONAL homework projects** (set out in year group termly newsletters) can be completed during the holidays. Other homework is not set, (except for Y6 pupils in the spring /summer terms, where appropriate)

-Please note that there may be occasions when changes need to be made to the above schedule for different year groups e.g. due to a school trip or unforeseen circumstances. If possible, as much warning will be given (recorded in Homework Diary).

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