



# Leamington Community Primary School

*Together we make a Difference*

## Homework Policy



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# **Leamington Community Primary School: Homework Policy**

## **Introduction:**

We define homework as any activity that pupils undertake outside of school lesson time, either on their own or with the support of family members. At Leamington Community Primary School, we have a strong commitment to parental involvement and see homework as one way of developing this partnership.

## **Homework Principles:**

There are many reasons why homework is provided and it carries a range of benefits, including but not limited to:

- It can provide a useful insight into school work for parents/carers;
- It can further stimulate enthusiasm for learning;
- It takes advantage of the home environment and resources and the chance for some one-to-one adult time with parents/carers who will bring different knowledge and perspectives to the topic in hand;
- It can be a great source for gathering topic information to share with others;
- It is a great opportunity to consolidate key skills such as: times tables; basic number facts, calculation skills, spellings, handwriting and many more;
- It helps to foster good habits of organisation and self-discipline in preparation for the demands of the next Key Stage and children's future lifestyles.

## **Homework Menus:**

Whilst we support all of the above key principles, Leamington Community Primary School is not a school at which homework dominates home and school life. We accept that not every activity will capture children and parents' imagination and that evenings and weekends can be busy. We believe that homework should be enjoyable and manageable for all concerned and that if it becomes a chore/burden/source of conflict it ceases to be a constructive aspect of teaching and learning. We do not specify amounts of time that must be spent on a task, preferring individual children and families to set their own routines. However, teachers are happy to give advice if needed.

After consultation with staff, parents/carers and pupils, we have adopted a 'Homework Menu' approach as it allows a more flexible routine to homework and allows children to take ownership of their learning outside of school hours. A homework menu will be set every half term. Homework menus will be: handed out to children to take home; posted on ClassDojo class stories; posted on our social media pages; and uploaded on to the year group webpage on the school website: <https://www.leamingtonprimary.com/our-curriculum/>

### **Activities/Tasks:**

Homework menus will consist of a grid of activities/tasks that children can choose from over the duration of the half term. We have a minimum expectation of two activities per half term but encourage children to try as many as they can. Tasks/activities may include:

- Consolidation of school work - i.e. current English/Maths topics;
- Practicing of key skills - i.e. telling time, spelling, handwriting, etc;
- Research/project tasks - further exploration of topics in school;
- Life skills appropriate to age - i.e. learning to tie shoe laces, etc;
- Speaking and Listening activities - i.e. interviewing members of the family, reading stories to younger siblings etc;
- Positive wellbeing activities - i.e. acts of kindness, positive messages, etc;
- Physical activities - i.e. showcasing a dance from school, completing exercise challenges, etc.

### **Submitting Homework:**

Some activities will require your child to complete written work/record their work on paper whilst others will be more active/practical tasks. Evidence of completion can be accepted in a number of formats: parents/carers can sign the homework menu to inform the teacher of completion of a task; a photograph/video can be uploaded to children's ClassDojo accounts or sent via the messaging service to the teacher or written work can be handed in.

Discreet recording of homework submissions will be kept by the class teacher and rewards/positive praise will be given, dependent on what has been decided in each particular class. Children earn ClassDojo points for submission of homework activities - with a maximum of 25 points for completion of all activities on the menu. Failure to complete any activities from the homework menu will not result in sanctions, however, the class teacher may discuss this with parents/carers to see if school can provide any further support.

### **Reading at Home:**

As well as homework menus, children are expected to read every night. Children are provided with reading books and a reading record from school. We follow the Repetitive Reading Strategy to help develop the children's vocabulary and word recognition; pattern and rhythm recognition; fluency; comprehension and confidence. Reading books (for all children up to white band) will be sent home each Monday and are expected to be returned the Friday of that week. This is with the expectation that the children will read the same book 2-3 times per week to develop the above skills. Further guidance for reading with your child at home can be found on our school website: <https://www.leaningtonprimary.com/our-curriculum/reading-quality-mark/>

### **Other Expectations:**

In some circumstances, additional activities may be provided to children as and when deemed necessary by the class teacher - such decisions will be explained by the class teacher. If you have any questions or concerns relating to extra homework/activities that are provided, please speak to your child's class teacher.

If you feel extra work may benefit your child, in regards to progress or difficulties your child is experiencing. Please speak to your child's class teacher and this can be arranged if deemed appropriate.

**Homework Concerns:**

If you find that the homework menu is inappropriate for your child; if they lack interest or if it becomes a source of conflict at home, please talk with your child's teacher in the first instance. If you still have concerns, please contact the Deputy Headteacher via the school office (0151 284 7848)