



Homework Policy

Date Policy Formally Agreed By Governors:
Date Policy Becomes Effective: 2025
Review Date: 2015, 2018, 2022, 2025, 2028
Person Responsible for Implementation and Monitoring: Assistant Headteacher

1. Aims

Homework refers to tasks given to children by their teacher to be completed outside of usual lessons. At Keldmarsh Primary School, we believe that homework should be used as a means of consolidating and reinforcing children's knowledge, skills and understanding. As such, homework should help to develop children as independent learners. It is our belief that the fundamental skills of English and mathematics should be prioritised for homework to ensure that children are confident and competent in these areas in accordance with the expectations of the national curriculum. These core subjects are the cornerstone of the primary curriculum; secure knowledge and understanding in these areas provide the foundations for children to become fluent readers, writers and problem solvers, and in turn opens up the entire wider curriculum for them. Additionally, homework provides opportunities for children to share learning with their parents or carers. Homework, therefore, fosters an effective partnership between home and school. We also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in children's growth and development; we believe that children develop their skills, interests and talents to the fullest when they are encouraged to make maximum use of the experiences and opportunities that are available outside of school.

Our aims for homework at Keldmarsh Primary School are that it:

- is relevant, purposeful and meaningful
- supports in class learning and is used as a means to retrieve, revise and reinforce key knowledge and skills
- encourages children to develop our key learning behaviours
- encourages parents/carers to take an interest in, and to share some responsibility for, their child's work and learning progress
- does not add unnecessary burden to the workload and wellbeing of children, families or teaching staff.

2. Types of Homework

The three key areas for homework are reading, writing and mathematics. We aim for a consistent approach across the school and employ systems as follows:

English - Reading

Pupils are provided with books to take home, which match their current reading level, to read with their parents/carers. In EYFS and Year 1, children's books are related to their learning in phonics and linked directly to the Bug Club phonics scheme. Pupils are also encouraged to select a 'reading for pleasure' book which may be above their own reading level, which they can take home and share with their parent/carer. From Year 2 onwards, pupils select books matched to their assessed level. Pupils in EYFS - Year 2 are also provided with logins for the online Bug Club programme; allowing them to read and listen to the books online and complete activities linked to these.

English - Spelling

Children from Year 2 onwards are provided with a login for the online Spelling Shed programme. This programme supports children in the acquisition of the key skills of spelling and word knowledge. Children have weekly spelling lists set on Spelling Shed, which are available each Monday from 15:30pm and are

accessible until 09:00am the following Monday. The spelling list will match the words being taught across the week in the classroom.

Mathematics - Key Number Facts and Times Tables

Pupils in Years 1 - 6 are required to learn and become fluent with key number facts. These key facts are broken down across the school year starting in the Autumn term and with further facts added each half-term. The facts are taught and tested as part of daily maths lessons and pupils are provided with access to resources (flash cards, times tables booklets) to support learning these facts at home across each half-term.

Pupils in Year 1 are provided with a login for the online programme Numbots. This is a progressive programme which children work through at their own pace and supports the development of recall speed and fluency of number facts, including both mental addition and subtraction.

Pupils in Years 2 - 6 are provided with a login for online programme Times Tables Rockstars. This progressive programme supports children in developing their recall speed and fluency of times table facts. Pupils are assigned weekly sessions, which are available each Monday from 15:30pm and are accessible until 09:00am the following Monday. The algorithm on Times Tables Rockstars prioritises small groups of questions from the early tables and gradually 'releases' facts as children show that they're ready. This ensures that children are working on a personalised program for learning times tables.

Other

At times throughout the year, teachers may set additional homework activities outside of those outlined in this policy. These could be activities linked to other areas of the curriculum and are required to support in class learning, for example, an observation to be conducted at home for Science. Before additional homework is set, teachers will agree this with senior leaders to ensure that it matches the aims set out in this policy. Parents will be notified of any additional homework and the details and instructions via Google Classroom.

3. Expectations and the Role of Parents

We deem reading to be the priority area and recommend that pupils read their book on a nightly basis.

For Maths, children are expected to practise and learn their key number facts regularly over the course of the half-term. We recommend children do this little and often to aid memorisation using the supplied resources (flash cards, booklets).

There is no limit to the amount of times pupils can access the spelling lists on Spelling Shed, the activities on Numbots or the challenges on Times Table Rockstars. For most effective practice, we recommend pupils use these programmes for a minimum of 5 minutes a day, 5 times a week (equivalent to 25 minutes per week per programme).

Whilst our expectations as a school are clear and we encourage all pupils to complete their weekly homework, we do recognise that this will not always be possible for all families. We understand the busy nature of family life and the importance of this. Therefore, we will not exert any undue pressure on families to complete specific set amounts of homework. Furthermore, we will not penalise those who do not complete homework. Pupils will not be asked to complete missed homework in school at break or lunchtimes. Where homework is frequently missing or not completed, the pupil's teacher will raise this as a concern with parents/carers. To encourage pupils to complete homework, teachers will discuss the importance of doing so and may reward those who complete it regularly or to a high standard.

If parents/carers do not have the facilities to access the online programmes or have difficulty meeting the expectations of homework, we request that they inform the school so that supportive measures can be discussed.

4. Use of data

The online programmes (Spelling Shed, Numbots and Times Tables Rockstars) provide teaching staff with data which will inform them of pupil's progress against each week's homework as well as their ongoing progress. Teachers will monitor this data on a weekly basis and make necessary adaptations to future homework based on this.

5. Special Needs Provision/Inclusion

At Keldmarsh Primary School, we teach all subjects to all pupils, whatever their ability and individual needs. This includes homework, which we set for all as a normal part of school life. We ensure that all tasks are appropriate to the ability of the individual pupil, therefore, we endeavour to adapt any task set so that all pupils can contribute in a positive way. When setting homework for pupils who are named on the SEN register, we refer to the Termly Support Plan and, as such, they may be assigned different homework from others in the class.

For pupils identified as having specific gaps in their learning e.g. phonemes from a previous phase away from that being taught, teachers will speak with the SENCO to discuss additional homework activities and provide supporting materials. Any additional homework provided will be communicated to parents/carers.

6. Monitoring arrangements

Monitoring of homework will take place by the English and Mathematics Subject Leaders on a regular basis. The governors who have curriculum responsibility for English and Maths closely monitor the subjects and the part that homework plays in these.

7. Policy Review

This policy was written by the Assistant Headteacher on 26th November 2025. The next review is due November 2028.