

# AYLSHAM LEARNING FEDERATION

## HOMEWORK POLICY JOHN OF GAUNT INFANT AND NURSERY

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Signed: .....

Chair

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### Introduction

Homework is anything that children do outside the normal school day that contributes to the children's learning in response to guidance from the school. Homework encompasses a wide variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents/carers to support children's learning. For example, a parent/carer who spends time reading a story to their child before bedtime is helping with homework.

Homework plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment, however we also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development. While homework is important, it should not prevent children from taking part in the wide range of out-of-school clubs and organisations that play an important part in the lives of many children. We are well aware that children spend more time at home than at school, and we believe they develop their skills, interests and talents to the full only when parents/carers encourage them to make maximum use of the experiences and opportunities that are available outside of school.

### Why give homework?

- It can inform parents/carers about learning in class.
- 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.
- It can be a great source for gathering topic information to share with all the children.
- It provides an opportunity to rehearse key skills.
- It helps to foster good habits of organisation and self-discipline in preparation for the homework demands of high school.

## **Homework expectations at John of Gaunt**

All children will take books home to read. These books will be their Read Write Inc. book, another story to support their Read Write Inc. book and a story to enjoy with their family. It is important that children read and are read to during every week.

Each week children in KS1 will take home an activity in their home learning book. This work is often linked to work that they have been doing in school or may be linked to their phonics work. This home learning is often practical but is always intended to extend their learning. EYFS home learning is shared via Tapestry each week.

Some children may be sent phonics videos to practice at home and children in years 1 and 2 may also be sent some additional phonics work to support them in preparation for the phonics check

All children are expected to take part in homework activities. If a class teacher is concerned that a child is not completing homework tasks regularly, parents/carers will be asked to discuss the reasons for this. If a child is unable to complete a weekly homework task for a particular reason (for example a big family event at the weekend), parents/carers are encouraged to let the class teacher know so that the child can be excused homework for that week.

If children are struggling with homework at home (for a variety of reasons) we can provide some dedicated time for homework support in school. Parents/carers are encouraged to speak to the class teacher so that the school is aware and can offer support.

Completion of homework is celebrated in school and in reception children share their homework with the class.

### **Children with special education needs**

We set homework for all children as a normal part of school life. We ensure that all tasks set are appropriate to the ability of the child. We endeavour to adapt any task set so that all children can contribute in a positive way.

### **The role of parents/carers**

Parents/carers have a vital role to play in their child's education, and homework is an important part of this process. We ask parents/carers to encourage their child to complete the homework tasks that are set. We invite them to help their children as they feel necessary and provide them with the sort of environment that allows children to do their best. Parents/carers can support their child by providing a good working space at home, by enabling their child to visit the library regularly, and by discussing the work that their child is doing.

If parents/carers have any problems or questions about homework, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher. If their questions are of a more general nature, they should contact a senior leader, or the head of school. Finally, if parents/carers wish to make a complaint about the school homework policy or the way it is implemented, they should follow the school's complaint policy on the website.

## **Our routines and expectations**

Reception classes send out weekly homework on a Thursday to be completed during the following week. KS1 classes give out weekly homework on a Friday to be returned the following Wednesday. The homework provided should always have been explained and discussed in class before coming home.

It is our intention, and good practice, not to send work home that the child cannot already do i.e. parents/carers are not expected to teach new skills. There should be a clear explanation/reminder from the teacher of what is expected. This should happen each week. Staff will respond or give feedback to completed homework in a variety of ways, including whole class discussion and feedback. Teachers will not tick every piece of work or answer (see assessment, recording and feedback policy).

To support home learning, and to reinforce the importance of homework, teachers have the discretion to keep children in for part of their lunchtime break to help them complete (or attempt) a homework task.

## **Monitoring and review**

It is the responsibility of our Governing Board to agree and then monitor the school homework policy. This is done by the committee of the Governing Board that deals with curriculum issues. Parents/carers complete a questionnaire during the school's OFSTED inspection (and annually in between inspections), and our Governing Board pays careful consideration to any concern that is raised at that time, or in between OFSTED inspections, by any parent/carer.