

# OWSLEBURY PRIMARY SCHOOL POLICY DOCUMENT



## NO. A60 HOMEWORK

### Review History

Date of Update	Reason for Update	Next Update
Autumn 2013	Major revision	Autumn 2017
Autumn 2021	Major Revision	

At Owslebury Primary School we are committed to continually raising the standards of achievement of all our children. As part of this drive, we would ask parents to support their children in a regular programme of home learning set by the school. This policy recognises the needs of both the school and family life.

### Throughout this policy we aim to:

- Instil both a love and commitment to learning.
- Ensure consistency of approach throughout the school.
- Ensure progression towards independence and individual responsibility.
- Ensure the needs of the individual child are taken into account.
- Ensure parents have a clear understanding about expectations from themselves and their child.
- Extend, deepen and support children's learning through reinforcement and revision
- Provide opportunities for parents, children and school to work in partnership
- Provide opportunities for parents and children to work together to enjoy learning experiences.

### Content of Home Learning

For all pupils throughout the school, the home learning tasks are designed to cover three key areas: consolidating and practising key skills; exploration of a wider range of learning tasks and developing good learning behaviours.

### Basic Skills

We believe that the basic skills of maths and literacy underpin and support all learning and allow children to succeed in everyday life. Becoming proficient in the basic skills requirements for a child's age will ensure access to the broader curriculum and enable children to produce and communicate higher quality outcomes. With the exception of reading, these will be completed weekly.

The skills include:

- Reading
- Spellings
- Mental maths

### Home Reading

Helping children to read and developing 'reading for pleasure' is the single most important thing that parents can do to help with their children's education. If possible, reading should be done every day. It is an excellent way to bring 'screen time' to a close and help settle children into a healthy, bedtime routine. Reading can also be linked to current school topics to support interest and understanding.

# OWSLEBURY PRIMARY SCHOOL POLICY DOCUMENT



## Reading Scheme Books

Each week, children will receive a Bug Club reading scheme book. These books build skills over time by introducing children to new sentence structures and vocabulary. Parents can worry that these books are not 'challenging', but the schemes are designed to develop language and grammatical structures. If parents feel that books are unsuitable, they should speak to their child's teacher. Generally, children should have scheme books until the end of Year 4, but it is not a 'race' to finish. Once children have developed their reading skills, which includes comprehension and understanding, sufficiently, they will become a free reader although in the first instance books will be organised so that they are introduced to smaller chapter books. Parents may wish to continue to share the book with their child and also the child may choose to read independently.

## Maths Skills

Fluency in maths skills (e.g. number bonds, times tables, telling the time) is another aspect that can have a big impact on children's learning. Scientific research has proven that the human brain has limited 'thinking space'; so storing basic facts in the long-term memory helps when working on difficult problems. We advise that children practise these basic skills until they know them 'by heart'. School will provide a list of topics each half term. Educational games can support learning in an engaging and fun way.

## The Broader Curriculum

This home learning will cover other areas of the curriculum and there will be a range of learning opportunities for the children to be engaged in. Children should choose one activity from the grid sent home by the class teacher each week.

## Frequency of home learning

	Reading	Spelling	Mental Maths	Broader curriculum
Year R	Daily reading aloud, practising of sounds and high frequency words when they are sent home		These are based on children's learning interests at school and include suggestions for activities and games to be completed.	
Year 1/2	Daily reading aloud, practising of sounds and high frequency words.	List of common exception words and year one or year two work lists will be sent home to <b>inform</b> you of the words that children will be introduced to throughout the year and will be a focus within school.	Numbots – we encourage 3 times a week.	A choice of a range of activities: one per week
Year 3/4	Daily reading recorded in the log book.	Weekly spelling lists to learn from an appropriate spelling list	TT Rock Stars 3 times a week	A choice of a range of activities: one per week

# OWSLEBURY PRIMARY SCHOOL POLICY DOCUMENT



Year 5/6	Daily reading recorded in the log book.	Weekly spelling lists to learn from an appropriate spelling list with associated tasks.	TT Rock Stars 3 times a week  Or alternative maths activity where appropriate	A choice of a range of activities with an expectation that older children will complete in more detail/depth: one per week
----------	---	---	---	--

In addition to daily reading we would expect children in Key Stage One to be aiming for a further 15-20 minutes across the week, children in years 3 and 4 a further 30 minutes weekly and children in years 5 and 6 a further 30-45 minutes weekly.

Children in year 6 may also receive additional homework to prepare them for SATs later in the year.

## **How homework will be reviewed/responded to**

### **Reading**

Reading diaries/records will be reviewed weekly and acknowledged verbally to children within class.

### **Spelling**

In Key Stage One, there will be no weekly spelling test. Daily ongoing assessment by the class teacher will focus on words from the list which are being taught through daily phonics and spelling activities in school.

In Key Stage Two, there will be a weekly spelling test which will be marked and responded to in class.

### **Maths**

Class teachers will acknowledge the progress children are making on either Numbots or TT Rockstars.

### **Curriculum**

Our Friday class assembly will be a celebration of home learning where there will be an opportunity for children to show/talk about their home learning. If your child completes learning where recording is not required (e.g. website investigation), they should be ready to talk about what they have learned or maybe bring in a photo of them engaged in the activity.

### **What should you do if your child is having difficulty with their Home Learning?**

If there are difficulties with an activity, please encourage your child to talk to their teacher as soon as possible. There will be a homework club on offer during lunchtimes for children to receive additional support if they are finding an aspect more challenging or if they want to complete some of their home learning in school.

### **Remember:**

Home learning is about practising, reinforcing and developing independence and confidence. Make it a fun experience! Encouraging your child and modelling the importance of home learning is equally important.