

# Gwenfro Community Primary School



*EIA Assessed*

## Homework Policy 2021

Agreed by the Governing Body: .....

Review date: .....

Signed: .....

Chair of Governors: .....

## **Introduction**

The purpose of homework is to consolidate, reinforce and extend skills and understanding, particularly in Literacy and Numeracy. It provides opportunities for parents and children to work together and allows parents to gain an understanding of what children are learning in school.

## **Aims**

We aim to ensure:

- A consistent approach to homework throughout the school.
- To ensure that teachers, parents and children have a clear understanding regarding expectations for homework.
- To ensure that teachers, parents and children are fully aware of the role they play with regard to homework.
- To provide parents with a clear policy regarding homework.
- To ensure this policy is fully and consistently followed.
- To provide support for parents with information about homework.

## **What is the role of the teacher?**

- To provide homework that is appropriate to the needs of the child.
- To ensure all children and parents understand the homework they have been given via videos sent on Seesaw.
- To give feedback about homework.
- To be available to talk to parents and children about homework.
- To inform parents if there is a problem regarding homework.

## **What is the role of the parent/carer?**

- To support the child in their homework.
- To ensure the child completes homework to a high standard and hands it in on time.
- To provide the appropriate conditions for the child to complete the homework.

## **What is the role of the child?**

- To make sure they understand the tasks that have been set.
- To put in the same level of effort as would be expected of class work.
- To hand the homework in on time.

## Homework in Early Years Nursery And Reception

The emphasis on homework in Early Years is learning together. The activities are Literacy based with a strong emphasis on reading together. It is an ideal time to lay the foundations for continuing work at home.

As part of their homework, we aim to encourage a wide range of skills:

### **Oracy**

- Parents are encouraged to listen attentively to what their child says and respond to them.
- Ask questions and repeat words, practising correct pronunciation.
- Encourage imaginative play by taking a role and joining in.
- Talk to their child about their day, asking them to express their thoughts and opinions.

### **Reading**

- Our children are expected to read every day as part of their homework.
- Parents are encouraged to read to their child, helping them to develop a love of books. To talk about the parts they both most enjoyed, ask them to point to words they recognise, talk with them about how words and illustrations work together in what they read.
- Point out words in the world, for example, road signs, shop names, building names.
- Key words are also given out to practise reading.

### **Writing**

- We encourage parents to take an interest in what their children write, for example, ask them to read their writing aloud to you and respond to it.
- Help them reflect on their writing, for example, what they were pleased with, how they might improve it.
- Key words are also given out to practise spelling.

### **Maths**

- Practise reciting and recognising numbers, for example in the shop or supermarket.
- Play games by counting objects, adding more and taking some away.
- Recognise shapes around the house and when out and about.
- We encourage use the language of maths- more, less, add, take away, shapes etc.

## Homework in Later Phase Years 1 & 2

As part of their homework in Years 1 & 2, we aim to encourage a wide range of skills:

### **Oracy**

- Parents should listen attentively to what their children say and respond to them by asking questions.
- Talk to their child about their day, asking them to express their thoughts and opinions.
- Talk with them about their ideas, for example, when drawing or playing.
- Ask them to retell simple stories in their own words.
- Encourage imaginative play by taking a role yourself and joining in.

### **Reading**

- Our children are expected to read every day as part of their homework. Books at the appropriate level are sent home weekly and parents are expected to respond in the reading diary.
- We want parents and their children to read books together, reading a section in turn, and talk about: - what happened - ask questions about the pictures - which parts they liked best - find a word.
- Children should be encouraged to choose books independently.
- Parents should encourage their children to sound out words using their phonic skills.
- Key word lists are given out to practise reading.

### **Writing**

- Children should be encouraged to write in play, for example, lists for shopping, record the results for their favourite sports team etc.
- Talk about what they have written - parents should say what they liked in it - asking where their ideas have come from - asking them to show you where a sentence begins and ends.
- Children will be provided with a list of key words to practise spelling.

### **Maths**

- Parents are encouraged to practise adding numbers in a real life context with their children, for example in the shop or supermarket, counting out money and working out the change.
- We are keen to parents and their children to play games by counting objects, adding more and taking away. To recognise shapes when out and about, talking about how many sides and corners they have and drawing pictures of them.
- Children should be encouraged to use the language of maths- more, less, add, take away, names shapes etc.

## Homework at Key Stage 2

### Years 3,4,5 & 6

As part of their homework at KS 2, we aim to encourage a wide range of skills:

#### **Oracy**

- Parents should listen attentively to what their children say and respond to them by asking questions asking for specific detail.
- They should talk to their child about their day, asking them to express their thoughts and opinions, encouraging them to develop their ideas by taking longer turns, adding detail and thinking about how ideas connect.
- We want our children to talk at length about increasingly complicated ideas and situations, for example, explain an experiment they have done in science or a topical subject such as cyber bullying.
- We encourage them to play listening and guessing games where they have to listen and ask questions, for example, 'I spy', 'who am I?'
- Children should have opportunities to retell stories in their own words, providing as much detail as possible.
- We are keen for our children to speak to different people in different situations- the cashier in the shop, the bus driver etc.
- They should listen and express their opinions about local and national issues in the news. Talk about these issues and be encouraged to develop an opinion- what do you think? Why?

#### **Reading**

- At KS 2, our children are expected to read every day as part of their homework. We expect parents to support this and listen to their child read regularly, writing a response in their reading diary.
- We want parents and children to read books together, reading a section in turn, and talk about: - predict what will happen next in a story - describe their response when they know what does happen - explain why a character behaves as they do - point to particular parts of a text that they like - talk about what a text suggests or implies.
- Children are encouraged to choose books independently and join Wrexham library.
- We want our children to sound out unknown words using their phonic skills.
- They are provided with a list of key words to practise reading.
- Talk with them about their likes and dislikes in what they read, ensuring they read a range of texts, for example, fiction and information books, comics and poems.
- We want our children to talk about the writer's choice of language, for example, why they think is good and explain why they think it works well.

### **Writing**

- We expect parents to encourage their child to write more, for example, a shopping list, a plan for a party or family celebration, a story that they can email to a member of the family.
- Read their writing and talk with them about how they might improve it, for example, by including more descriptive detail- what did she look like? How did he feel?
- Talk about what they have written - saying what you liked in it - asking where their ideas have come from.
- Practise spelling key words given out by school.

### **Maths**

- Practise using numbers in a real life context, for example in the shop or supermarket.
- Children should be encouraged to count out money and work out the change.
- Use the language of maths- more, less, add, take away, names shapes etc.
- Practise reciting their times tables (see attached).
- Point out the maths in everyday life. Include your child in activities involving numbers and measuring, such as shopping, cooking and travelling.

All homework is handed out on a Monday and is returned on a Friday. Parents can Seesaw the homework to the class teacher or they can bring it physically back to school. Parents are regularly encouraged to engage with their child's homework and are sent reminders via the school Seesaw App.

Every piece of homework is accompanied with a video sent by the class teacher explaining what the homework is and demonstrating how to complete the work. These are sent after school on Monday via the Seesaw App. Any child who does not have access to the app has a written explanation with an example to help support the child and parent.

The homework focuses on maths and language skills. A reading book is included in the homework and is expected to be read daily.

### **Seasonal Activities**

At various points in the year, pupils will be provided with opportunities to participate in seasonal events such as St David's Day. They will be encouraged to complete tasks such as craft activities, baking, writing etc as directed by the class teacher. This may also take the form of learning a song or poem.

### **Music**

- Pupils who learn a musical instrument are expected to practise regularly at home.