



## ***Easingwold Primary School***

### ***Homework Policy***

#### ***Rationale:***

At Easingwold Primary School, we believe a well-organised and well-matched homework programme helps all children to develop the skills and attitudes they will need for successful, life-long learning. Homework provides an invaluable link between the learning undertaken at school and at home. It helps to share current learning and promotes parental involvement in the learning process. Well matched homework to the child's ability also provides a good opportunity for the child to consolidate key skills in light of learning that has taken place at school or in readiness for learning yet to come. Irrespective of the age or stage a child is at, homework can offer further learning opportunities which bolster good progress through the primary years. Homework in the lower school predominantly focuses on the development of good reading skills. As the children move through the school, the expectation for written homework will increase.

#### ***Aim:***

At our school we aim to set well-pitched homework, which provides appropriate consolidation relative to the age of the pupils. Homework we give to pupils has many purposes:

1. to consolidate learning through rehearsal,
2. to deepen understanding,
3. to help to prepare children for work to come.

It is our intention that staff and families work together to support their children in further learning at home.

#### ***Procedures for homework:***

##### ***Reception:***

With support, Reception children are expected to read their phonics books three times a week. We would encourage parents to read a library book or a bedtime story most nights to their children.

Tricky words, pink (phase 2), blue (phase 3) and green (phase 4) are sent home to practise reading that has been taught in Phonics.

Reception children will receive home letter formation packs based on the progression of the curriculum and each letter family has been taught. These can be used to help improve letter formation.

##### ***Year 1:***

In year 1, we expect the children to read their reading book four times a week. We would encourage parents to read a library book or a bedtime story most nights to their children.

New Little Wandle phonics sounds are sent home weekly if parents wish to do further practise with their children. Tricky words from that week will be sent home for further practice at home.



## Year 2:

In year 2, we expect the children to read their reading book five times a week. We would encourage parents to read a library book or a bedtime story most nights to their children. Tricky words will be sent home regularly for further practice at home.

## KS2:

Across KS2, the children are expected to read a minimum of five times a week and record it in their reading records. The recommendation for this is 15 - 30 minutes per read. Parents are asked to initial the five reads in the Reading Records in readiness for Library day.

In addition to reading, KS2 children are expected to complete two lots of homework: SPaG (CPG books) and Maths (Oxford University Press). **Homework is set on Friday and must be returned complete on Wednesday.** We feel that this provides adequate time for this to be carried out at home, giving consideration to the busy lives that families lead.

**Maths Homework:** The pages are sequenced in the same order that we teach the curriculum and they mimic the representations, pictures and vocabulary we use in Maths lessons. The parents/children will self-mark their work - each answer has a corresponding letter and at the end of the page, they should be able to spell a word. If the word isn't clear/there are incorrect letters, the children know they will need to go back and attempt that question again. School staff will check through these books when handed in and pick up any misconceptions from children. Parents will find instructions inside the books on how to support self-marking. Parents are encouraged to write a note on the homework if they need to let staff know something.

**SPaG Homework:** SPaG homework will be set alternating between a punctuation and grammar task one week, then a spelling task the next. This work will be marked by staff.

**ICT:** Children who wish to do additional practice at home will also have access to Spellingframe to support their spelling and Times Table Rockstars to support their quick recall of the multiplication facts up to 12 x 12. These passwords can be found on their Reading Records.

## **Homework Expectations:**

At Easingwold Primary School we believe that homework contributes positively to learning and we hope that the children and families will agree. We expect children to return completed homework promptly; to have done the task well and to have **completed it to the same high standards of quality and presentation we would expect of them at school.**

We would ask that parents/carers to check the standard of homework completed by their child. It is our expectation that every child completes the homework activities and returns them to school on time as this enables teachers to manage their workloads by checking the work, providing feedback (where necessary) and setting new homework tasks. The timing routine is the same across KS2 so that, as parents, you know when you should receive and return your child's homework.



**All written homework will be marked.** This will follow the conventions of the school marking policy with pink to mark accuracy and green to show an area of improvement. Comments on homework will not normally be written, unless there is a specific reason to do so. If a parent/carer wishes to comment on their child's homework they can do so in the Homework Book itself. Staff will acknowledge that by initialling it or responding with a short comment in the book. Where a lengthier conversation is required a telephone call or face to face meeting may be more suitable.

Where relevant, we will report to parents/carers on the standard of homework at parents'/carers' evening and in each pupil's annual report.

We will always be supportive and show understanding if there is an exceptional circumstance why a child cannot complete homework. We hope that a parent/carer will communicate with the class teacher about any such circumstances.

All homework returns are tracked by staff in school. In any other unlikely event that homework is not completed the following procedures will be followed:

- a) Step 1: The teacher will talk to the child about the work not being done and/or add a note to the child's homework book. They may refer the child to a Homework group to catch up on the missed work.
- b) Step 2: If the issue persists, parents/carers will be informed and the child will attend Homework group to catch up on the missed work.
- c) Step 3: If missed homework becomes a pattern, discussions will be held with parents/carers around ways in which we can support them with homework. The purpose of this conversation is to make parents/carers aware that the homework is not being completed. It will be expected that the child then attends homework club (during lunchtime) or stays with their class teacher so that school can support the child with their schoolwork to ensure it is completed until such time as the homework is then completed at home.

***Please note: If a parent/carer chooses to take a child out of school on holiday during term time and this absence is unauthorised, work will NOT be set for the child to do.***

#### ***What parents should expect:***

- Clear and precise instructions,
- Feedback as detailed in policy,
- Tasks closely linked to classroom learning which generates positive discussion with families and celebration of progress, however small.

#### ***Homework Rewards:***

We understand that time for families is pressured and so at ECPS we consciously set homework that we feel is both manageable and enhances progress. EPIC points are awarded to encourage children to read regularly and complete their work to a high standard. EPIC points are plastic tokens given to children as a result of:

1. ***Excellence in learning***
2. ***Perseverance with learning***
3. ***Initiative with learning***
4. ***Contributing to learning positively.***



EPIC points can be awarded for outstanding homework. If this is the case, 'EPIC' will be recorded by the teacher/teaching assistant at the bottom of the piece of work. If children complete the third page in their Maths homework based on real world maths, they will earn an additional EPIC.

When awarded, children will add their token to the class total (displayed in the main corridor). At the end of each week the class with the highest number of 'EPIC' points will win a treat of their choosing, such as additional playtime.

Linked to this system will be the reading reward system. Children will receive an EPIC point if they have read the recommended times in the week. This will be indicated in their Reading Records.

### **General Points:**

A child should spend no longer than the given time on the homework tasks unless they choose to.

All homework is to be completed in pencil.

Homework will not be set over the holidays.

School will provide the first homework book. It is the responsibility of the parents and child to ensure that the homework book is kept in good order and free from damage. If homework books are lost or damaged at home, they will need to be replaced at the original cost. This can be paid directly to the school office in order to secure a replacement.

### **What if my child has a Special Educational Need? Do they still get homework?**

At ECPS we are committed to promoting an inclusive teaching and learning environment for all children – This extends to creating homework experiences for every member of our school, including those with additional needs. It is our aim to enable equal opportunities where all children take part in all activities alongside their peers, achieving their highest potential when learning - both in the classroom and at home.

### **What teachers will do:**

The majority of children with SEN will be able to access the homework but may not be expected to complete it as it often progresses in its challenge. This can be agreed with the teacher through discussion or parent consultation evenings.

For children not able to access the entire curriculum, they will be set homework that is pitched well and meets their individual needs. As teachers, we know that SEN pupils have a varied range of learning styles. Home learning is a perfect opportunity for personalised learning challenges which can be fun and child driven. Homework tasks for those with additional needs are unlikely to always be written/memory based assignments. They are more likely to involve practical 'real life' experiences such as baking (weighing and measuring), shopping (using money), collecting items (categorising, ordering, listing, analysing), scrapbooking (using digital media, writing short captions), creative tasks, physical activity such as games/activity to reinforce counting (dance mat, hopscotch, environmental walks) local visits and personalised open-ended learning. Teachers will capitalise on the known learning strengths of SEN pupils to master new and developing skills when setting home learning.

Policy reviewed by Miss T Potter: Sept 2025