



# Moorlands Primary School

*High Expectations, High Achievements, Challenge and Enjoyment for All*

## Homework policy

<b>Name of Policy Writer/Amendments</b>	<b>Date Written/Amended</b>	<b>Next Review Date</b>	<b>Approved by Governors</b>
Becky Freeman	January 2017	January 2018	
Becky Freeman	January 2018	January 2019	Jan 2018
Becky Freeman	January 2019	January 2020	Jan 2019
SLT	January 2020	January 2021	March 2020
Becky Freeman	January 2021	January 2022	2 <sup>nd</sup> Feb 21
SLT	January 2022	January 2023	Feb 22
SLT	February 2023	February 2024	Feb23

We define homework as any activity that pupils undertake outside of school lesson time, either on their own or with the support of family members. At Moorlands Primary we have a strong commitment to parental involvement and see homework as one way of developing this partnership.

### **Why do we give homework?**

- It can inform parents about work going on 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 is a great opportunity to rehearse key skills such as times tables, mental arithmetic, spellings, handwriting and other key facts.
- It can be a great source for gathering topic information to share with all the children.
- It helps to foster good habits of organisation and self-discipline in preparation for the demands of Secondary School.

### **Homework at our school**

Whilst we support all the above key principles, Moorlands Primary is not a school at which homework dominates home and school life. We accept that not every activity will capture children and parents' imagination and that weekends can sometimes be busy. We recognise the importance of homework in practising and developing knowledge and skills and the understanding that it should be enjoyable and fun for all concerned. We believe that if it becomes a chore/burden/source of conflict it ceases to be a constructive aspect of teaching and learning. We do not specify, only recommend amounts of time that must be spent on a task, preferring individual children and families to set their own routines. Individual teachers are happy to give further advice. We hope the children are motivated by positive incentives and by the tasks themselves; children are not punished if they fail to complete the work. Homework is tracked and monitored.

### **Our routines and expectations**

At Moorlands we have focussed our homework around three key teaching aspects linked to the children's specific needs and development towards their Year Group Expectations (YGE). These are:

- Reading
- Spelling
- Mental Maths

Children will be set weekly spellings associated to YGE spelling patterns or phonics level. These will be set through fun engaging activities either using Ed Shed or other online sites, paper based or games. Every child should have a home reading book which is changed regularly, when children are in Upper Key Stage 2, they may prefer to read their own books from home and record this reading in their reading record. The books will be at a level the child is working at so that they can read it independently at home and read with an adult. Adult at home should make comment in the reading diary where possible. We

recommend children read for 20 minutes daily. Reading should be recorded in reading records. Once a page of their reading record is completed, children will be rewarded with a merit.

Times table homework will be set weekly, this will be through the online platform TT rockstars, activities or games; these will be associated to the tables each child is learning or needs to practice. Rewards will be given for several reasons; effort, time spent on learning, most correct answers, quickest time, or progress made. Teachers may set 'battles' or 'competitions' to incentivise children.

Key Instant Recall Facts (KIRFs) are set for each half term for every year group, these are designed to support the development of mental maths skills that underpin much of the maths work in our school.

Practical ideas, games and recommended websites to practise these mental maths skills will be shared with parents.

Instructions for what to do on homework will either be posted on Seesaw or sent home in paper form. For children who cannot access an online device, relevant paper activities or games will be given out weekly.

In preparation for high school, year 6 will also have an additional piece of homework that should take around 30 minutes

### **Homework Praise**

Children who regularly complete homework should be rewarded as appropriate (merits and team points).

Classes view TT Rockstars and Ed Shed leader boards to celebrate completion. It is the class teacher's responsibility to ensure that children are regularly completing homework to an acceptable standard.

### **Parents**

Parents are encouraged to work with their child and support them with their homework.

Parents are offered opportunities to improve the way they support their children at home.

At Parents' evenings, teachers advise parents on how they can support their children at home.

In addition to this, each term the parents are sent an overview of what their children are learning, which parents are encouraged to discuss with the children. This is also available on the school website. The overview describes what the children are learning across all subjects including English and Maths.

### **Pupil Absence**

If a pupil is absent on the day that homework is given out, the teacher should ensure that the child receives the work or instructions on how to access it.

If a child is off school long term due to a medical condition, the teacher(s) will ensure that work is sent home regularly for the child, via the Seesaw learning platform. See the Remote Learning Policy for information and guidance about learning during National lockdowns and during periods of isolation.

### **Holidays**

Homework will not be set during the school holiday, except for Year 6 during the Easter holidays. All children have a TT Rockstar's account, which they can use at any time including holidays if they wish.

We expect children to maintain the same standards for presentation of homework as we set in school i.e., to use their best handwriting and a sharp pencil or pen.

