



Homework Policy: September 2024

This policy will be reviewed in line with the policy review timetable.

Homework Policy

Intent

At Heron, our aim is to provide our pupils with skills and knowledge that is transferable. We believe that our curriculum is broad, balanced, inclusive and relevant; it complies with the requirements of the national curriculum and meets the needs of all children whatever their ability. This is achieved through the experience of a range of opportunities so that pupils have the potential to achieve and be the best they can. It is designed to: recognise children's prior learning, encourage independence, provide first hand learning experiences, allow the children to develop interpersonal skills, build resilience and become creative, critical thinkers.

The school curriculum is planned to provide continuity and progression. We believe that children learn best when they can see links and have reasons for learning. Therefore, we promote the enjoyment of acquiring new skills and knowledge through discussion, play, exploration, creativity, purpose and relevance. We celebrate and welcome differences within our school community; we hope that pupils are motivated by achievement both now and in the future and have a positive attitude towards themselves, others and their environment.

The ability to learn is underpinned by the teaching of basic skills, knowledge, concepts and British values. We constantly provide enhancement opportunities to engage learning and believe that childhood should be a happy, investigative and enquiring time in our lives where there are no limits to curiosity and there is a thirst for new experiences and knowledge. We use our Drivers (Healthy Living, Express Yourself, Respect, Our World and Never Give Up) to promote positive attitudes to learning which reflect the values and skills needed to promote responsibility for academic development and future success.

Our homework offer aims to provide pupils with the opportunity to practise and extend the skills and knowledge learned in the classroom, as well as aiming to encourage and improve independent learning. Our homework offer varies based on the age and ability of the pupils and should highlight a clear progression as they move through the school.

Homework at Heron Primary School should:

- be purposeful and able to be completed independently by the pupil most of the time;
- be appropriate to the needs of the child, and adapted where necessary;
- be able to be completed within a reasonable timeframe;
- ensure a consistent approach to homework throughout the school;
- ensure that teachers, parents and pupils have a clear understanding regarding expectations for homework and the role they play;
- use online platforms (for e.g. Spelling Shed, Times Table Rockstars) where appropriate;

- offer opportunities for pupils to regularly read (at least 4x a week), practice spellings and spelling patterns and practice times-table facts.

Academic research

The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) have found that homework that is linked to classroom learning tends to be more effective and allows pupils to undertake independent learning. The EEF also outline that the quality of the task is more important than the quantity of work, and commonly the homework set in primary schools tends to be reading, practicing spellings and number facts. The EEF also found that studies involving digital technology can have a greater impact. The full article can be found [here](#).

Homework expectations at Heron Primary School

Our homework offer at Heron Primary School has been reviewed and updated using feedback from parents/carers, teachers, pupils and relevant academic research. The following grid outlines our homework offer and expectations at Heron Primary School:

All year groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular reading practise - all children in Reception to Year 6. As a minimum, we would expect all children to be reading with an adult 4 x a week. • Homework task grid (optional)
Reception	Phonics home/school books - sent home every Friday
Year 1	Spellings (new list each Friday) Phonics home/school books - sent home every Friday
Year 2	Spellings (new list each Friday) Times Tables Rock Stars (beginning the end of Autumn)
Year 3	Spellings (new list each Friday) Times Tables
Year 4	Spellings (new list each Friday) Times Tables (Times Tables Rock Stars and weekly worksheet)
Year 5	Spellings (new list each Friday) Alternate weekly Maths/English homework
Year 6	Spellings (new list each Friday) Maths homework English homework

We have added an optional homework task grid for all year groups. These will be sent home three times a year during the autumn, spring and summer term. This homework grid will provide additional learning tasks linked to the learning taking place within the classroom with a focus on different subjects. The tasks should not be time-consuming and have been designed to be low-cost.

Example of a homework task grid for Year 4 in the Autumn Term:

<p>Make a meal with your family.</p> <p>Find out all of the different ingredients and how to say them in French.</p>	<p>Go for a walk around your local area or town.</p> <p>Can you spot any stained glass windows? What patterns do they use?</p>	<p>Research and learn about an Ancient Egyptian Pharaoh.</p> <p>Write down your top 5 facts.</p>
<p>Find a news article on Climate Change.</p> <p>What is the article all about?</p>	<p>Play Hit the Button and practise your 4, 8 and 12 times tables.</p> <p>https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button</p>	<p>Create a diagram of a volcano using items you've got at home.</p> <p>Can you label the different parts?</p>
<p>See which animals you can spot in the garden or at the park.</p> <p>Can you create a food map?</p>	<p>Make a list of all of things that use electricity in your house.</p> <p>How many items can you find? Do they use different switches?</p>	<p>Place a cup or sandwich bag of water on a window sill.</p> <p>Can you see any evidence of evaporation, condensation or precipitation?</p>
<p>Complete a transport survey near your home. How many different modes of transport can you spot? Could you create a bar chart?</p>	<p>Create a toolkit to help you stay in the 'Green Zone' at home.</p> <p>Make a list of all the different strategies you could use.</p>	<p>Draw a picture of Varjak Paw.</p> <p>Use what we have learnt in class so far to help you.</p>

How can parents/carers support with homework?

- Ask your child what they are learning about in school and discuss it. Try to include opportunities to extend your child's learning, where possible, such as a trip to the library and discussing different things during daily life.
- Talk to your child positively about what you like to learn about, your school experiences and your interests.
- Set a regular routine where the children can complete homework tasks e.g. time to read before bedtime or after-school. Consider having a place in the house where tasks can be completed.
- Make learning and completing homework a positive experience. If your child is finding some of the homework challenging, and it is proving hard to support them at home, please seek support from your child's teacher.