

**St Oswald's CE Primary School**  
**Home Learning Policy**



***Learning for all, caring for each other, preparing for the future***  
*Let us encourage one another – Hebrews 10.25*

Last Review Date: November 2019

Next Review Date: November 2021

Suggested Frequency of Review : School's discretion

# St Oswald's CE Primary School

## Home Learning Policy

This policy was produced following consultation with parents, pupils, staff and governors, with the aim of ensuring a consistent approach throughout school, which is understood by all stakeholders.

### Guiding Principles

At St Oswald's we believe that home learning activities should:

- give opportunities to focus on key learning such as reading, learning spellings and times tables
- give opportunities for pupils to consolidate and extend their learning
- help parents/carers to understand what their children are learning at school and how they are progressing, and to support their children's learning
- reinforce the partnership between home and school
- help to develop pupils' independent learning skills as they become older
- help to develop positive attitudes to learning rather than create stress or friction for pupils or parents!
- give children time to enjoy their leisure time with their families and pursue personal interests outside school

### How we will promote home learning

#### **1. By setting regular key tasks to be completed at home**

- All pupils will be expected to carry out **essential weekly or on-going activities** (e.g. reading, spellings, times tables etc) The details for each phase of these regular tasks are set out below
- Additional tasks may be set when necessary to support or extend specific areas of learning

#### **2. By using systems for regular school-home communication**

- Reception pupils have a Reading Record book which should be used every time they read either at home or school.
- Pupils in KS1 and KS2 are issued with planners in which they can record details of any tasks, special events etc. for the week. Parents are encouraged to use these to communicate with the teacher any comments or issues. Planners also contain space for recording reading.
- All pupils are given individual 'next steps' targets for improvement in Reading, Writing and Maths, which are shared with parents at parents' evenings.
- Each phase team will produce a newsletter every half term which will give details of the curriculum, visits etc in the half term ahead.

#### **3. By using the school website ([www.stoswalds.york.sch.uk](http://www.stoswalds.york.sch.uk))**

- Additional optional activities will be made available to pupils and parents through the school's website. These can be undertaken at any time, but do not need to be submitted to the teacher and will not be marked.
- We will also use the website to publish details of the curriculum each year.

#### **4. By providing information to parents about the curriculum and current methods of teaching and learning**

- Parents will be offered the opportunity to attend regular workshops to explain how different areas of the curriculum are taught in school.
- The school website includes links to useful websites, documents or resources to help parents support aspects of children's learning at home (e.g. videos of written methods in Maths; school Calculation Policy; phonics teaching)

## 5. By offering pupils support for home learning in school

- Each phase will provide an opportunity at lunch-time for pupils to work on home learning activities with the support of a teacher.

### Regular Home Learning Tasks

#### READING AT HOME

- We want all our pupils to develop a love of books, whether reading for enjoyment or to find out information. As well as reading most days in school, we would encourage all children to read each evening and all parents/carers to read with their child as often as possible.
- Even fluent readers benefit from reading aloud to an adult, although there may be more emphasis on talking about what has been read and developing higher order skills such as summarising, making predictions or deductions or expressing and justifying opinions.
- All children also really enjoy and benefit from being read to by an adult.
- Reading at home does not have to be confined to a school reading book – anything which gets children reading, and enjoying their reading, is fine!

#### RECEPTION

##### Reading

As well as reading their home reading book with an adult every night, children should practise reading key words regularly.

##### Phonics

Children should practise the reading / writing specific phonics sounds sent home.

#### Y1/2

##### Spellings

Weekly spellings for the half term ahead will be sent out at the beginning of each half term. These will be tested on Fridays.

##### Maths

All pupils have a 'Maths Facts' book and will be set a weekly Maths task, which will be sent home every Monday to be completed by the following Monday.

#### Y3/4

##### Spellings

Weekly spellings for the half term ahead will be sent out at the beginning of each half term. These will be tested every Wednesday.

##### Maths

Pupils will be set a maths 'activity mat' once a week to support the development of key maths skills. These will be sent home each Tuesday and handed in the following Monday.

##### Learning Journals (cross curricular topic work)

Each term, the class teacher will set a range of learning tasks which children can respond to creatively and independently. They will be given two weeks to do one of their choice. Every fortnight pupils will be given an opportunity to share their learning during 'Y3/4 home learning gallery'. The teacher will give written feedback.

## Y5/6

### **Spelling**

Weekly spellings for the half term ahead will be sent out at the beginning of each half term. These will be tested every Tuesday.

### **Maths**

Pupils will be set a piece of maths homework by their maths teacher to help consolidate and deepen their learning from that week's lessons. This will be sent home weekly.

### **Learning Journals (cross curricular topic work)**

The class teacher will set a learning task or open ended question, which children can respond to creatively and independently. They will be given two weeks to do this. Every fortnight pupils will be given an opportunity to share their learning during 'Y5/6 home learning gallery'. The teacher will give written feedback.

### **Additional Note**

We want home learning to be a positive experience for pupils and parents, which will support children's learning in school, make a real difference to their progress and help to instil good learning habits and attitudes for the future.

If for some reason your child has been unable to complete a task, please discuss this with your child's teacher or notify them using the child's planner.

If they need further help from a teacher to complete the task, there will be an opportunity to work on it with adult support during school time.