

Seaton Sluice First School



Homework Policy

2024

Written by: Amanda Bennett October 2024

Role: Headteacher

Approved by: Amanda Bennett

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At Seaton Sluice First School, the purpose of homework is to reinforce the importance of secure, embedded key fundamental skills in reading, spelling and mathematics important for children within everyday life. We whole-heartedly promote the need to maximise learning at school and then enjoy quality family time at home, discussing our experiences and learning within the family home, sharing our learning in a meaningful, enthusiastic way.

Research has indicated that homework offers minimal academic advantage. On occasions, it overwhelms children and creates negativity. It can also lack purpose and for some children, be an unnecessary, mundane task where time would have been better spent reading an exciting book or engaging in a family activity such as a walk or a trip to the beach. On occasions, homework tasks become stressful for parents or carers who may be unclear of an aspect of homework thus causing tension and bad feeling. At Seaton Sluice First School, we want our pupils to leave school happy and go home to rest, replenish, relax and return ready to learn the next day.

Therefore, the key fundamental skills that we focus on for homework are:

- Reading aloud to an adult, checking that children understand the words they are reading and can respond accurately to questions about the content.
- Enjoying quality time listening to stories read to us by a grown up.
- The learning of relevant age-appropriate vocabulary and spelling patterns provided by the teachers.
- The learning of times tables and number facts.

Roles and responsibilities

The head teacher and teachers will ensure that homework is:

- Clear and consistent across the school.
- Appropriate to the age group and in line with the agreed policy.
- Based on either reading, spelling or mathematics.
- Meaningful with a clear sense of purpose in relation to how the learning will benefit the child.
- Considerate of family life and promotes the importance of quality time together.

Parents will be asked to support their child in some or all of the following ways:

- Support the school in reading with their child on a daily basis and complete comments in the home/school planner.
- Make use of the question prompts in the back of school reading books as an aid to check the understanding of their child.
- Ensure that a time is set aside to learn together for spelling work and maths facts.
- Provide opportunities within real-life scenarios to practise their maths skills and times tables.

- Ensure that time is given to support their child in completing homework to the best of their ability, in a calm, quiet environment.

Pupils will:

- Read every day (5-10 minutes as a minimum is ideal)
- Try their best and value learning.
- Know that reinforcement will always be given in school.

Details of homework

Reception

- Weekly phonics work
- Reading regularly (this will start during the spring term)
- Occasional maths/literacy/topic-based work or 'talk' work
- The first 100 high frequency words given out following the reading/phonics meeting.

Year 1 – Orange Class

- Reading for 10 minutes every day to a grown up (Parent to fill in home/school planner)
- Learning of 3-10 spellings (Notes on how to learn these are provided)
- The reading and spelling of the first 100 high frequency words on a regular basis

Year 2 – Yellow Class

- Reading for 15 minutes every day to a grown up (Parent to fill in home/school planner)
- Learning of 5-10 spellings (Notes on how to learn these are provided)
- The learning of the first 100 and then 200 high frequency words differentiated for individual children.

Year 3/4 - White and Purple Classes

- Reading for at least 20 minutes every day to a grown up.
- Encouragement to read independently (at bedtime is ideal).
- Learning of 10-15 spellings (Notes on how to learn these are provided)
- Times tables practise and number facts and skills to support the 'I Can Do Maths' scheme as given by the group teacher.

This policy will be reviewed annually.