



St Peter's Eaton Sq C of E Primary School

The Home Learning Guidance 2015/16

The Home Learning Guidance 2015/16 has been developed following staff consultation and will be reviewed for 2016/17 and beyond. Towards the end of the Summer Term 2016 staff, children and their parents will be canvassed for their views.

Introduction

Home Learning is anything children do outside the normal school day that contributes to their learning. **Home Learning** encompasses a variety of activities guided by teachers and parents/carers to support the children's learning. Writing, learning maths facts, reading stories and nonfiction, family discussions, cooking, gardening, drawing, making things, playing games, sport, clubs, visiting art galleries, museums, places of interest and events are all part of **Home Learning**.

Recently there have been a number of significant national changes in the education landscape, including;

- a new National Curriculum
- a recognition of the importance of giving children opportunities and time to embed their learning
- a new process for assessing pupil progress without NC Levels
- a new baseline assessment for children entering Reception,
- changes to statutory assessments at the end of KS1 and KS2,
- developing "growth mind sets",
- getting children to be more active,
- increasing children's wellbeing and happiness at school,
- an increased emphasis on reading for enjoyment and making inferences
- an increased emphasis on the automation of number knowledge
- and a new Ofsted framework

Rationale for Home Learning

- response to changing educational landscape
- initiative to embed deeper knowledge and understanding of areas of learning
- helps children acquire flexible and independent learning skills for fast changing world
- part of positive child development
- support progress and attainment
- cooperation between home and school
- enhances creativity and enjoyment of learning

Outcomes for Home Learning

- effective learning outside school

- high level of independent learning skills
- consolidation of school learning
- depth of knowledge and understanding
- positive, enjoyable and creative extended learning
- positive home and school cooperation
- sound foundation for lifelong learning habits

Types of *Home learning*

Reading

EYFS

We ask that parents to listen to their children read. We also believe that parents should read books to their child. Sharing books is just as valuable in aiding a child's progress in reading as is your child reading to you or to their teachers.

Reception children will have phonic word sent home each week.

Children bring home books to read and for parents to read to them. A Little Reader Comment book is supplied for parents. The teacher will respond, usually on a Monday or Friday.

Key Stage 1

We encourage daily reading at home. Remember this can include sharing books and you reading to your child.

Levelled Reading books can be changed every day in Year 1 and once a week in Year 2.

Parents are encouraged to make comments in the Reading Book and teachers will respond when necessary.

Key Stage 2 We expect children to be reading at home for enjoyment. This could be silently to themselves or reading with you or a sibling. All children, particularly younger children, will also still enjoy and benefit from having stories read to them. Older children who may not be ready to read the classics (Dickens, Austen or Stevenson) to themselves would relish an adult reading these to them.

Spelling

Year 1 and 2 children will be given weekly phonics spelling list on Mondays for a test the following Monday.

Year 3-6 Children will have a spelling test each week.

Number knowledge and Maths

Children become successful mathematicians through a knowledge and familiarity with, amongst others;

- multiplication tables, number bonds, near doubles
- written and mental arithmetic methods – checking their calculations through the inverse operation
- mathematical vocabulary
- fractions, decimals and percentages
- measures – such as weighing cooking ingredients
- money – handling real money situations including calculating change
- time – reading analogue/digital clocks and understanding timetables

Year 3-6 Children will have a maths test each week (multiplication tables, number bonds or other mental maths problems).

Confidence, Cooperation and Community

Children can make rapid academic and developmental progress when they possess the confidence to work cooperatively with others at school. Encouraging speaking and listening at home improves children's abilities to express their views and knowledge at school, and enables them to practise turn taking and to speak confidently.

At school we encourage and develop public speaking from an early start in **EYFS** when a soft toy goes home with children, who then re-tell the adventures to classmates.

Home Learning Journal

Children are provided with a **Home Learning Journal**, which will initially contain general age appropriate guidance on Maths and English. Additional support and guidance from time to time will be sent home for children to add to their **Home Learning Journals**. Children can use these to practise skills learnt in school, such as times tables, number bonds and maths calculations.

The Journals can also be a good place for children to write stories, poems and recounts. Journals do not need to be returned to school.

Sometimes, **Home Learning** can be a time for children to talk or research about a topic at home while studying it in depth in school. For instance, visiting places in London connected with the Great Fire of London.

Inclusion and Home Learning

Some children sometimes find certain areas of learning more of a challenge than others. We always try to offer individual or group support within the school day. Such interventions are designed to help children speedily overcome any obstacles to learning.

Therefore from time to time we may also set individual children specific tasks for them to complete at home to complement these interventions.

The role of parents and carers

Parents and carers have a vital role to play in their child's education, and *Home Learning* is an important part of this process. We ask parents and carers to encourage their child to ensure they use *Home Learning* as a time to embed maths facts, to read extensively and for discovery through favoured areas, such as art, games, music and news. We encourage parents to help their children as and when they feel it to be necessary, and to provide them with the sort of environment that allows children to do their best. Parents and carers can support their child by providing a good working space at home, by enabling their child to visit the library regularly, and by discussing the work that their child is doing.

If parents and carers have any questions about home learning, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher.