



# Home Learning Policy

**March 2019**

### **Purpose of Home Learning**

Home learning is designed to consolidate and reinforce core skills learnt in school, particularly in literacy and numeracy. It also serves to encourage pupils as they get older to develop the confidence and self-discipline needed to study on their own, and to prepare them for the requirements of secondary school.

Within this Policy any reference to parent/parents encompasses all named carers, and legal guardians of pupils attending Sonning Common Primary School.

### **Nature of Home learning**

Home learning is a cooperative venture between parent and child and we encourage parents to be involved in their child's home learning. We recognise that children have busy lives outside of school and so demands on pupils to do home learning will be spread out over the week. 'Finishing off' work is never set as home learning and is only sent home when the teacher feels that the child has had a reasonable amount of time in school to finish the work set, and has not done so.

Home learning is now standardised around the three key primary school targets of reading, spelling, and times tables, as detailed below.

### **Maths**

From Year Two, children will be guided towards their tables learning, using the Times Tables Rock Stars online tool. All children are set up on the TTRS 'Automatic Training Mode'. This runs through their school life, and gradually measures their progress and sets them harder tasks, running from the very simplest tables in Year Two, through to the full 12x12 tables by the end of Year Four, with additional revision activities in Year Five and beyond. This mode records their speed at recalling tables facts as well as their accuracy, and offers multiplication, commutativity and division, gradually increasing the level of difficulty. This will prepare children well for the new national multiplication assessment (at the end of Year 4). Teachers will often set additional sessions and other challenges and your child should aim to spend around 20 minutes in total on their tables per maths homework session. All activities are recorded and can be inspected by teachers. There will also be occasional house-based competitions across the school.

### **Spelling**

Children will be guided towards their spelling learning, using The Spelling Shed online tool. Children will be set up with increasingly challenging spelling words and activities as they progress, and as their spelling improves. Teachers will set differentiated word lists, with words selected from a variety of sources: topic words; National Curriculum spelling lists; words from our chosen scheme of ReadWriteInc; words which are frequently spelled incorrectly and words to provide appropriate challenge. Teachers will often set additional sessions and other challenges amounting to a total time of around 20 minutes spent on each spellings homework session. All activities are recorded and can be inspected by teachers. There will also be occasional house-based spelling bee competitions.

### **Reading**

Children are expected to read at home at least four times a week and have their planner signed by an adult as a record of this happening.

### **Facilities**

It is understood that sometimes children may not be able to access the Internet or have a suitable device at home to do so. If a child is unable to access their home learning at home in a particular week, suitable facilities and time will be provided at school.

### **Additional Home Learning**

Whilst these three activities will form the basis of the home learning each week, teachers may occasionally suggest other activities (for example 'challenge' booklets, preparation for talks, or some specific topic-related activity). In Year Six, children will normally receive additional home learning tasks.

### **Special Needs**

Children with special needs will receive home learning along with everyone else, and if necessary this may be in a format more suitable to their needs.

### **Role of Parents**

We would hope that parents will:

- provide a suitable place in which their child can do their home learning;
- make it clear to the child that they value home learning;
- support the school in explaining how it can help their child's learning;
- encourage the child and praise when they have completed home learning to a good standard.

### **Dissemination**

The Policy is available on the school website and a paper copy is held in the main school office. A short summary will be included in the school prospectus. The policy and schemes of work will be available on request to parents, LA, OFSTED and others working for the school, through the headteacher.

### **Monitoring & Evaluation**

This policy will be reviewed annually by the headteacher, teaching staff, governors and parents, and changes will be made to ensure that this policy is up to date.