



Lyncrest Primary School Homework Policy

December 2021

We define homework as any activity that pupils undertake outside of school lesson time, either on their own or with the support of family members. At Lyncrest we have a strong commitment to parental involvement and see homework as one way of developing this partnership. This policy has been put together based on feedback from children, staff and parents.

Why give homework?

- It can inform parents about work going on in class;
- It can further stimulate enthusiasm for learning;
- It takes advantage of the home environment and resources and the chance for some one-to-one adult time;
- It is a great opportunity to rehearse key skills such as times tables, spellings and reading;
- It helps to foster good habits of organisation and self-discipline in preparation for the demands of Secondary School.

Homework at our school:

Whilst we support all of the above key principles, Lyncrest is not a school at which homework dominates home and school life.

We accept that not every activity will capture children and parents' imagination and that weekends can sometimes be busy. In line with our curriculum vision, we recognise the value of children attending clubs and having hobbies outside of school, all of which build cultural capital. These experiences are as important as work we set. We believe that homework should be enjoyable and manageable for all concerned and that if it becomes a chore/burden/source of conflict it ceases to be a constructive aspect of teaching and learning.

We hope the children are motivated by positive incentives and by the tasks themselves; children are not punished if they fail to complete the work. Instead, those who go above and beyond to further their learning will be recognised and rewarded.

Although we will not put in place consequences for those who do not complete homework, discreet homework registers are kept and if a child consistently fails to complete and return tasks, this is discussed with the child and their parents so that we can offer you support.

We recognise that not all home environments are conducive to quiet work and that some parents may not always be able to offer support to their children, therefore, where this applies, school will endeavour to provide a quiet space and time during the school day for children to complete given tasks.

Minimum and expected homework expectations by year group per week:

Listed below are the minimum expectations for each year group regarding homework that we will be keeping records for, to monitor completion. For the majority of the school, we have chosen to put more emphasis and focus on key skills rather than lots of worksheets or recorded homework. This only comes into play once children reach years 5 and 6 as they prepare for the transition to secondary school.

Nursery – sharing books with children regularly

Reception – reading at least 3 times a week, practising blue words, sound work

Year 1 – sound/word work, reading at least 3 times a week, 10 games on TT Rockstars

Year 2 - reading at least 3 times a week, 10 games on TT Rockstars

Year 3 - reading at least 3 times a week, 10 games on TT Rockstars

Year 4 - reading at least 3 times a week, 10 games on TT Rockstars

Year 5 - reading at least 3 times a week, 10 games on TT Rockstars, 1 task from CGP maths or English books, building to 2 tasks as the year progresses

Year 6 - reading at least 3 times a week, 10 games on TT Rockstars, 3 tasks from homework books, maths, grammar and reading

Alongside these tasks, teachers will also regularly post information about spelling patterns or rules that are being learnt, onto Class Dojo, along with words that may help them practise these at home. Children do not need to learn these words for a specific test but this will allow you to work with your child at home to re-enforce the learning in the classroom.

Additional and optional homework

At the beginning of each term, all teachers, from reception to year 6, will share a menu of optional activities on Class Dojo, which provide tasks linked to all areas of the curriculum for those who want to engage in further work. These will be designed to cover all areas of the curriculum in response to feedback and requests from the children. They may be recorded or oral activities, may be practical tasks or even visits and experiences. Some may be shorter tasks and some may take the form of larger projects.

Children and families can choose to complete as many of these activities as they wish and share either work, videos or photos of learning with teachers via the portfolio area on Class Dojo. This learning can then be shared with the rest of the class and rewarded appropriately.

Expectations of parents:

At Lyncrest Primary School, we appreciate families are busy with day to day jobs and running a home however we do expect your support to help children be successful. We ask that you encourage children to complete tasks at home and work with them where needed. We ask that when you have read with your child, you sign their reading log to evidence that this has taken place. By reducing the amount of formal, recorded work, we expect children to complete that this will provide more time for you to support with the basic skills of reading, times tables and spelling.

Expectations of staff:

Staff are responsible for regularly sharing spelling patterns, rules and words with parents to keep them informed and also sharing the menu of activities on Class Dojo within the first week of a term. Staff are responsible for monitoring and keeping records of which children complete their homework and then rewarding those who go above and beyond as well as having conversations with parents when children regularly do not complete tasks in order to offer support. In years 5 and 6, teachers will clearly tell children which pages of their homework books to complete and staff will be responsible for either marking this themselves or working with the children to mark and provide feedback.

Expectations of children:

We expect children to take increasing responsibility for their own homework as they progress through school as this prepares them for secondary school. If, in years 5 and 6 when children have pages in books to complete, they know they find this difficult at home or they require support, children are responsible for seeking help rather than just not completing it. They are also responsible for bringing their reading log to and from school in order to demonstrate their reading at home. Homework should be completed to the same standard as work in the classroom.

If at anytime, you feel the homework set does not meet the needs of your child, please speak to your child's class teacher in the first instance.