

# EASTWAY PRIMARY SCHOOL



## Home Learning Policy

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## Home Learning Policy

The school policy for Home Learning was developed and agreed by the whole staff in consultation with parents and pupils and has the full agreement of the Governing Body.

### **1. Our Aims:**

- ✓ Ensure that parents are clear about what their child is expected to do.
- ✓ Ensure consistency of approach throughout the school.
- ✓ To use Home Learning as a tool to help to continue to raise standards of attainment.
- ✓ Improve the quality of the learning experience offered to pupils and to extend it beyond the classroom environment.
- ✓ Provide opportunities for parents, children and the school to work together in partnership in relation to children's learning.
- ✓ Encourage pupils and their parents to share and enjoy learning experiences.
- ✓ Reinforce work covered in class by providing further opportunities for the individual pupil.
- ✓ To practise or consolidate basic skills and knowledge, especially in Numeracy and Literacy.
- ✓ To create a genuine love of learning that extends outside the classroom and school. Promote intellectual curiosity.
- ✓ Develop daily good habits and routines for practising and reinforcing basic skills.
- ✓ Provide open ended tasks to encourage children to create individualised and unique responses to demonstrate what they have learnt in school weekly through their own Learning Log.
- ✓ Encourage children to develop the responsibility, confidence and self-discipline needed to study independently.
- ✓ To prepare Year 6 pupils for the transfer to secondary school.

### **2. The Nature of Home Learning**

It should be noted that Home Learning can be set in many different forms with many different expectations and outcomes but we try to make sure that all classes are following a consistent whole school approach to make this easy to parents and children. It is important to remember that when setting Home Learning there are a number of points to consider:-

1. The nature and type of Home Learning changes throughout a pupils school career.
2. Amount and frequency of Home Learning should increase as a pupil gets older.
3. Home Learning should not cause undue workload or stress on the pupil, family or the teacher.
4. It will not necessarily come in the form of a written task.
5. Home Learning tasks should be set weekly from the Early Years to Year 6.
6. Basic Skills should be completed daily, including a minimum of 15 minutes reading.
7. Children have access to a number of online programmes that have been purchased to enhance their learning and practice daily key skills.
8. Home Learning is expected from every child and family, without exception.
9. Home Learning Club is provided after school and lunchtimes by staff to support our most vulnerable families.
10. Training and support is given to our families to empower them and ensure they are confident in supporting their child's learning at home.

### **3. Recommended Time Allocation**

Home Learning should never be too onerous nor should it ever create stress within the pupil's family. If parents have any concerns they should not hesitate to contact the school. Normally, more than one day will be allowed for the completion of a Home Learning task, except where daily practice is to be encouraged e.g. reading, spellings and times tables. The following are government recommendations as appropriate time allocations for Home Learning activities:

Years 1 and 2 - 1 hour per week  
Years 3 and 4 - 1.5 hours per week  
Years 5 and 6 - 30 minutes per day

#### **4. Overview of Expectations**

##### **Supporting Learning Outside the Classroom**

Each half term, your child's teacher will share with you what they will be learning on a one page overview (a copy is available on your child's class page of the school website). The best way to support your child at home is to show curiosity about what they are learning and further learn together. For example- if they are learning about local history, take a walk around Moreton and down to Moreton shore, visit the Lighthouse and view the Eastway Room; if they are learning about size, measuring, capacity- bake with your child and let them weight the ingredients. It does not have to be pen and paper. We know that children learn best when they are happy and engaged. Each school holidays we will also provide you with fun things to do in our local area to promote and develop their life skills and cultural capital. Your children will love sharing knowledge with you and enjoy talking about what they have learnt.

##### **Weekly Class Quiz & Family Quiz**

At the end of each week, the children have a quick quiz in class to recap all that they have learnt and make sure it has 'stuck' before the teacher moves onto new learning the next week. They also have weekly spelling tests. We do not shame the children if they make mistakes and do not ask them to share their scores but we encourage them to work on their mistakes and support them with strategies for improving their memory.

At the end of each term in Years 1-6, your child's class teacher will invite you and your family in to take part in a Family Quiz. This event lets our children know how important it is to learn together as a family. Each adult pays £1 to enter (your family team can have up to 6 team players!) the teacher will then ask a series of questions based on what your child will have learnt in the last term. The winning family with the most points scored at the end of the quiz, wins the cash prize. Our Early Years families are invited to Stay and Play sessions to view their child's learning environment and look through records of their achievements.

##### **Daily Focus**

At Eastway, your child is expected to engage in short daily practice of basic skills outside the classroom. They are provided with an Eastway Red Book Bag and are expected to bring this into school each day. All children are given a reading book matched to their current reading ability and they can also choose a library book to bring home and share (this is often not matched to their reading ability but to promote a love of reading and interest in books) The book bag will also contain their key skills daily learning books. We have our Book Swap Sheds where you can take as many books as you would like for free and we will gift your children with a high quality text to add to their home library every term. It is essential that you child reads daily as this hugely benefits them in a wide range of areas.

##### **Early Years**

- Daily focus on talk and developing communication and language skills, e.g nursery rhymes, sharing stories
- Online programmes- NumBots, Phonics Games, Bug Club (if you do not have log ins, please check Reading Logs/ Homework Bags or ask staff)

##### **Key Stage One**

- Daily reading of their phonics books that is banded and sent home
- Daily phonics practice and spelling
- Online programmes- NumBots, Phonics Games, Bug Club, Spelling Shed (if you do not have

log ins, please check Reading Logs/ Homework Bags or ask staff)

#### Key Stage Two

- Daily Reading, Timetables and Spelling Books completed
- Online programmes- Timetable Rockstars, Read Theory, Bug Club (if you do not have log ins, please check Reading Logs/ Homework Bags or ask staff)

#### Learning Logs

##### **Across school from Early Years to Year 6, every child is given their own Learning Log**

- We encourage children to personalise these books, take pride in them and make them individualised and unique- this will be a log of all that they have learnt and lovely to look back on (and practice before Family Quiz)
- We provide the Learning Log (with instructions inside), pencil, rubber and ruler and a handy bag to carry it in.
- There is a weekly Learning Log activity that should be completed together with your child (depending on their age, we try to promote independence!)- books are sent home on a Thursday and returned on a Tuesday.
- Class teacher will acknowledge their work completed and give appropriate praise e.g stickers, Praise Postcard etc.

#### **5. Role of the Class Teacher**

- ✓ To provide an explanation of Home Learning tasks to parents when necessary and give guidance of how they might assist their child regularly. This may be done by a note with the work or in the diary, at a parents' meeting or at an open evening.
- ✓ To set up daily Home Learning in an easily followed routine.
- ✓ To ensure that Home Learning is set consistently across classes.
- ✓ To set Home Learning that takes equal opportunities into account and provides additional support, resources and specific task for those children with additional needs.
- ✓ To ensure any Home Learning is purposeful and links directly to the taught curriculum.
- ✓ To set Learning Log task every Thursday and collect to mark every Tuesday.
- ✓ To reward and praise children who regularly complete Home Learning tasks.
- ✓ To mark Home Learning and give feedback to pupils.
- ✓ To promote and celebrate learning outside the classroom and intellectual curiosity
- ✓ Foster a genuine love of learning
- ✓ Provide individualised incentives and rewards to Home Learning
- ✓ Lead Termly Family Quiz events
- ✓ Set weekly spelling tests (Y-6) and weekly learning quizzes

#### **6. Role of the Head teacher and Governing Body**

- ✓ To check compliance of the Policy.
- ✓ To meet and talk with parents when appropriate.
- ✓ To discuss with staff how far the policy is being successfully implemented.
- ✓ To regularly gather feedback from staff, parents and pupils on Home Learning and act upon this to ensure improvements are made
- ✓ Ensure support is available for all vulnerable children and families to ensure that they are disadvantaged
- ✓ To ensure that families have all that they need to be able to complete learning outside the classroom
- ✓ Inform new parents to the school so that they are aware of the home/school agreement and what it entails.

## **7. Role of Parents/Carers**

- ✓ To sign a home school agreement dealing with Home Learning.
- ✓ To support the school by ensuring that their child completes Home Learning.
- ✓ To provide a suitable place for their child to carry out their Home Learning.
- ✓ To encourage and praise their child when they have completed their Home Learning.
- ✓ To become actively involved and support their child with Home Learning activities.
- ✓ To make it clear that they value Home Learning and they support the school by explaining how it can help learning.
- ✓ To promote a love of learning and provide experiences beyond the classroom.
- ✓ To attend Termly Family Quiz.

At Eastway Primary School we are very keen for parents to support and help their children with Home Learning. We recognise that parents are their child's first educators and we want to work in partnership with them. We take the view that children are likely to get more out of an activity if parents get involved as long as they do not take over too much. However, there are times when we will want to see what children can do on their own. It is particularly important, as they get older, for children to become increasingly independent in their learning. If a parent is unsure about what their role should be, they should discuss it with their child's teacher.

Subject Leaders regularly send information home and put information on our school website to support families and children in specific areas. They may often invite families in to workshops and to discuss how their subject is taught at Eastway. Our Family Engagement Lead can signpost to outside support that is available for families and children and runs training sessions and workshops on how best to promote a love of learning and engage a child with Homework. The Early Years Team provide PEEP and Family Works to support and guide parents in the early phases of their child's learning journey; they give ways to improve the Home Learning Environment and support in setting good habits and routines.

If a child is absent for a length of time due to illness, Public Health restrictions limiting school attendance or partial or full school closure, work will be set for your child to complete at home. This is in accordance with our Remote Learning Policy, please read for further guidance. It is not possible to give Home Learning when parents take holidays in term time or other unauthorised absence.

Parents/Carers who have queries about Home Learning should not hesitate to make an appointment to see their child's class teacher or Key Stage Leader.

### **Equal Opportunities:**

The governors and staff are committed to providing the full range of opportunities for all pupils, regardless of gender, disability, ethnicity, social, cultural or religious background. All pupils have access to the curriculum, and the right to a learning environment, which dispels ignorance, prejudice or stereotyping.