

# St Mary's C of E School



**ST. MARY'S**  
Church of England School  
AYLESBURY

## Home Learning Policy

Adopted by SLT -

Due for review -

St Mary's C of E School

## Home Learning Policy

We define home learning as any activity that pupils undertake outside of school lesson time, either on their own or with the support of family members. At St Mary's C of E School we have a strong commitment to parental involvement and see home learning as one way of developing this partnership.

### Why set home learning?

- 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 special time with an adult (e.g. reading and talking together);
- It can be a great source for gathering topic information to share with the class;
- It is a great opportunity to rehearse key skills such as times tables, number facts, calculations, spellings, handwriting, punctuation and key facts;
- It helps to foster good habits of organisation and self-discipline in preparation for the demands of Secondary School.

### Home Learning at our school

Whilst we support all of the above key principles, St Mary's is not a school at which home learning dominates home and school life. We accept that not every activity will capture children and parents' interest and that weekends can sometimes be busy. We believe that home learning 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 do not always specify amounts of time that must be spent on a task, preferring individual children and families to set their own routines. Individual teachers are happy to give advice. 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. However discreet records are kept and if a child consistently fails to complete and return tasks, this is discussed with the child and their parents.

### Our routines and expectations

All classes in KS1 and 2 will give out half termly *Home Learning tasks* at the beginning of each half term. This will be found in the Home Learning book and on the class page of the school website. One piece from the home learning tasks needs handing each Wednesday and the Home Learning book will be marked and returned to the child on a Friday each week. There will be 9 different tasks for each half term and the class teacher will indicate which tasks are compulsory.

The Home Learning tasks will have been explained and discussed in class before coming home. It is our intention, and good practice, not to send work home that the child cannot already do i.e. parents are not expected to teach new skills. Therefore, some of the tasks may be related to a skill that has already been taught. Some tasks may include a date when element will be taught in class so

children can complete the task once they have been taught the skill. Children will then be able to select which task they wish to do each week. Within the Home Learning tasks two will be whole school tasks that families can complete with different aged children if they wish to do so.

**Broadly speaking these are current expectations:**

**Nursery** – sharing books and communicating with school via the Home School book.

**Reception** – daily phonics/reading and engaging in weekly topic related task alongside their parents.

**Years 1 and 2** – daily reading, phonics practice, weekly piece of Home Learning. Again, many of the tasks will involve paired work with parents.

**Years 3 and 4** – daily reading, daily times tables and a weekly piece of Home Learning.

**Years 5 and 6** - daily reading, daily times tables and a weekly piece of Home Learning.

We expect children to maintain the same standards for presentation of Home Learning as we set in school i.e. to use their best handwriting and a sharp pencil or blue handwriting pen (no biro) for pupils with pen licences.

As part of the Home Learning tasks teachers may use websites for children to gain more information to complete their tasks. This may be directing children and parents to play a specific game from Interactive Resources. Additional support for this will be found on the class page on the school website.

In the few weeks prior to SAT tests, the Year 6 children may be given additional revision work.

**It is not our policy to give Home Learning over the holidays and half term breaks.**

Sometimes teachers may send specific tasks to support the learning of the children. This will be discussed with parents.

If parents take holiday during term-time, something we actively discourage, parents may not request work from the teacher. We suggest that parents organise a holiday diary.

**What to do if you have concerns**

If you find the Home Learning inappropriate for your child, if they lack interest, if it becomes a battleground or if you are concerned that home Learning is given inconsistently, please talk with your child's teacher in the first instance. If you still have concerns, please talk with the Headteacher or Team leader for your child's Key Stage.