



Mont Nicolle School: Homework Policy

Autumn 2019

Aim of the Policy

This policy aims to provide staff and parents with clarity about our school's approach to setting homework. This will ensure there is consistency of approach through the school and a clear rationale.

Principles

At Mont Nicolle School we consider homework to be an important aspect of school life. We believe it can:

- Support children's learning at school.
- Enable children to practice, perhaps in a real-life context, skills they have been learning at school.
- Provide children with the opportunity to extend learning independently.
- Helps children develop organisation skills that will help them cope with future stages of their learning, such as when they move to secondary school.
- Promote home-school links, and can help parents understand what their child is learning at school.
- Give children an opportunity to celebrate their successes.

We believe that all homework should:

- Have a clear learning purpose that is linked to the learning going on in school.
- Support learning and our Core Values and not become a cause of anxiety or stress.
- Be something that the child can achieve, so suited to their learning needs.
- Be regular, and set as explained.
- Be clearly explained to children and parents.
- Be time-bonded so that it does not take too much time.
- Be varied- some being interactive and open-ended, some being written, some being 'challenge' based, some being 'game' based.

We believe that all homework should not:

- Require the teaching of new skills.
- Become stressful for the child or parents.
- Be so open-ended that there is no clear 'finish'.
- Rely on parents to do it with the children too often.
- Become too repetitive.
- Become too time-consuming.
- Have no purpose.

In order to keep you informed, we have set down below a guide to the kinds of tasks that teachers set, and the way homework builds up through the school.

This plan is not set in stone, it is a guide. There will be occasions when children bring home different pieces of work, for specific reasons.

Setting Homework through the school

Nursery

We do not send home 'formal' homework in Nursery. From time to time we might ask you to discuss something that we have been/are going to be learning about with your child at home.

We also promote and encourage parents to talk to their children as much as possible and give them lots of real-life experiences, such as getting out and about. We also hope that parents will read to their children in Nursery every day.

Reception

- 1) Phonics- to practice the children's Read, Write Inc sounds they have been learning.
- 2) Parents and children to share a book everyday.
- 3) Later in the school year, reading - to follow through the activities in the Read, Write Inc. books that the children bring home.

Year 1 and Year 2

Between 15-20 minutes per night. The main homework set is:

- 1) Phonics (depending on their RWI group)- to practice the children's Read, Write Inc sounds they have been learning.
- 2) Reading- to practice the books they have taken home. Some will be Read, Write, Inc books, others may be a library book.
- 3) Spelling- Complete the daily spelling practice sheet depending on their Read, Write Inc. group.
- 4) Maths- counting, number bonds and times tables, or practical activities linked to telling the time, weighing etc.
- 5) Mathematics, on-line maths practice linked to recently taught concepts.

Year 3 and 4

The main homework set is:

- 1) Reading daily.
- 2) Spelling- Complete the daily spelling practice sheet – personalised 'Look, Cover, Write, Check'.

- 3) Maths fluency - counting, number bonds and times tables.
- 4) Maths homework – ‘Practice Maths’ linked to recently taught concepts.
- 5) Mathematics, on-line maths practice linked to recently taught concepts.

Year 5 and 6

The main homework set is:

- 1) Reading- daily. Usually books of their own choice.
- 2) Spelling- Complete the daily personalised spelling practice sheet.
- 3) Maths fluency - counting, number bonds and times tables.
- 4) Maths homework – ‘Practice Maths’ linked to recently taught concepts.
- 5) Mathematics, on-line maths practice linked to recently taught concepts.

When and how is homework set?

The day that homework is set on and handed in is set by the class teacher. We try to set longer homework over a weekend so that parents have the option of completing this at the weekend if they prefer.

Year 1 to Year 5

Homework is explained in class and children will bring it home in their homework folder/data file in their book bag. If you wish to write a comment, about how your child tackled the homework, please do soon the homework sheet.

Parents Role

Teachers should explain to parents in their curriculum letters how much support they would like them to give their children with their homework, and whether or not they would wish them to correct errors in written work, such as spellings. If parents are unsure about their role in supporting homework they should contact their child’s class teacher.

If homework becomes a really stressful experience for the child and/or parent, it is taking too long to complete, or you have any other questions or concerns about how to complete it, please talk to the class teacher about this. It is essential homework adds to school learning and does not become a ‘battle of wills’.

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L Paul

