



Holland Junior School

Home Learning Policy

Introduction

Home learning refers to any work or activities which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time. It encompasses a variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents to support their children's learning.

Rationale

Home learning (or homework) is an important part of a child's education and can add much to their development. Children benefit greatly from the mutual support of parents and teachers in encouraging them to learn both at home and at school. We see home learning as an important way of establishing successful dialogue between teachers and parents. One of the aims of our school is for children to develop as independent learners. We believe that home learning is one way in which children can acquire the skill of independent learning.

Home learning plays a positive role in raising a child's attainment. While home learning is important, it should not prevent children from taking part in the wide range of out-of-school clubs and organisations that play an important role in the lives of many children. We also acknowledge the important role that play and free time in a child's growth and development. We are aware that children spend more time at home than at school, and we believe they develop their skills, interests and talents to the full only when parents encourage them to make the maximum use of the experiences and opportunities that are available outside school.

Aims and objectives

The aims and objectives of home learning are:

- To enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development
- To help pupils develop the skills of an independent learner
- To promote a partnership between home and school in supporting each child's learning
- To inform parents about what their child is learning and how they are doing
- To enable all aspects of the curriculum to be enriched
- To provide educational experiences not possible in school
- To consolidate and reinforce learning done in school and to allow children to practice the skills taught in lessons
- To further stimulate enthusiasm for learning
- To take advantage of the home environment and resources, and the chance for some one-to-one adult time
- To prepare pupils for the expectations of secondary school home learning
- To establish confidence, self-discipline and the organisational skills required to positively engage with home learning in their future education

Types of homework

We provide children with a range of home learning activities. The tasks set are varied and may include:

- Reading
- Spelling
- Learning times tables
- Learning key words or concepts
- Answering questions
- Researching a topic

- Discussing an issue with friends and family
- Revising and practising a previously taught skill (e.g. handwriting, maths skills, spelling patterns etc.)

Daily Reading

At Holland, the expectation is that **all** children will read at home **every** night for a minimum of 30 minutes. We do not see this as a chore but rather an enjoyable time to spend sharing stories.

Reasons why you should read to your children

Research shows that reading to a young child is the single most important thing you can do to help your child's education. As a parent, you have the power to boost your children's learning potential simply by making books an integral part of their lives.

Reading aloud helps children develop positive associations with books and reading. The nurturing one-to-one attention from parents during reading aloud encourages children to form a positive association with books and reading later in life. Reading aloud is also a proven technique to help children cope during times of stress or tragedy.

"Evidence suggests that children who read for enjoyment every day not only perform better in reading tests than those who don't, but also develop a broader vocabulary, increased general knowledge and a better understanding of other cultures. In fact, reading for pleasure is more likely to determine whether a child does well at school than their social or economic background." (AAP.org)

Building vocabulary and understanding

Learning to read is about listening and understanding as well as working out what is written on a page. Through stories, children are exposed to a wide range of words. This helps them build their own vocabulary and to understand how stories work too. Better readers also make better writers!

Amount of home learning

In Years 3 and 4, we provide approximately 1½ hours of home learning weekly. In Years 5 and 6 we provide 2½ hours approximately weekly (half an hour homework daily). The expectation is that all children in years 5 and 6 will complete the English and Maths tasks set weekly as home learning. For those pupils who do not complete these tasks at home they will be expected to complete them in school during non-curriculum reward time.

Home learning is set on a Friday and is due in on a Wednesday. Home learning tasks will be set on Google Classrooms where appropriate, for which all children have their own log in details. The school is committed to supporting families without suitable technological devices in the home, through the provision of a school laptop when possible.

The role parents and carers play in supporting children

- Encourage children to carry out home learning tasks in quiet places away from distractions whenever possible.
- Listen to their child read aloud daily, sign the child's reading diary daily and ensure it is returned to school each day
- Support them to plan and organise time so tasks are not left until the last minute.
- Make it clear to your child that you value home learning, and support the school by explaining how it can help their learning.
- Encourage children and praise them when they have completed their home learning.
- Ensure the quality of the work at least matches the quality of work in school. Children should be encouraged to take pride in their work and handwriting should be neat.
- We know there will be times when your child does not want to complete their home learning – pick the right time and persevere, as it is important.
- All the normal activities that parents do with their children such as talking, playing board games, going on walks, reading a story, building models, cooking and gardening together and going on visits are all of educational value and are of great importance in the academic, emotional and social development of a child.
- It is appropriate to help your child with their learning if they are unsure about something but if a child is struggling unduly please contact their teacher and stop the activity if it is causing distress.

Children are expected to

- listen carefully to instructions when the teacher explains what the homework for the week will be and where to find it (e.g. Google Classrooms, Home Learning/Homework folder, Lexia, SATs Companion, Mirodo etc)
- ask in good time if they do not understand what they need to do
- find out what homework has been missed if they have been absent from school
- ensure that they have the correct books, resources and materials to complete their home learning
- meet time deadlines for completion so they can receive timely feedback
- plan their time effectively around out of school activities and communicate with their teacher should the need arise
- record reading activities in line with their year group expectations in their reading diaries
- ensure their reading diary is in school every day for teaching staff to review
- complete home learning to the best of their ability and to the high standards of care and effort that is expected with school learning

Teachers are required to

- provide children with a reading diary to record reading undertaken at home and act as a communication link with home
- advise parents that the reading diary should be signed daily
- upload homework tasks weekly to Google Classrooms or provide printed guidance for tasks to be completed
- plan home learning which is purposeful and relevant to the curriculum
- ensure home learning has a clear learning focus
- match home learning to the needs and ability of a child whenever possible
- design home learning that develops the skills of independent learning
- ensure home learning is accessible to all children and make any specialist resources available for loan if required
- supervise homework catch up sessions to enable children to catch up with missed home learning wherever possible (this could be lunchtime or during any reward time)
- give appropriate feedback, through teacher-pupil dialogue or written marking, to a pupil on completion of learning

Compiled by: Senior Leadership Team

Date adopted: Summer Term 2021

Date of review: Summer 2023