

# Easington Church of England Primary School



# Homework Policy

**Chair of Governors:**

**Date:**

**Written September 2022  
To be reviewed September 2023**

**Easington Church of England Primary School** is a voluntary controlled Church of England school.

We strive to strengthen our relationships with others as part of God's family. We are a place of distinctive excellence where all are valued as individuals. We achieve this by involving our children in a lively and relevant curriculum.

Our aims are:

- To provide an awareness and experience in the Christian faith, cultivating spirituality, mutual respect and responsibility.
- To encourage our children to explore and experience the Christian faith, develop a true sense of awe and wonder and celebrate the significant Christian festivals.
- To promote the highest academic standards in all aspects of the curriculum by ensuring that all of our children learn and make progress.
- To ensure that everyone within our school feels safe and valued and is encouraged to develop lively enquiring minds, to question and reason.
- To encourage independence and skills for life long learning.
- To teach respect for others and their beliefs through RE, Collective Worship and the hidden curriculum.
- To nurture links between our school, the home, the parish and society.

# Easington Church of England Primary School

At Easington C of E Primary School, we understand that learning at home plays an important part in a child's education. For this reason, we strive to ensure that appropriate work is set for pupils depending on their year group objectives and individual needs. We are passionate about homework being interesting, fun and relevant to what children are learning about in school. We do not want homework to be cumbersome or for it not to serve a purpose. Homework does not always have to link to English and maths. We are keen to set tasks that involve spending quality time together, communicating with one another and providing children opportunities to learn about topics and issues relevant to their lives, families and heritage.

## Homework Challenge

This homework is optional; however, in the current climate of modern technology and children spending more time on video games, we hope this will give children something different to focus on at home.

Children will be given the question at the beginning of the spring and summer term and will have the whole of the term and the relevant holiday to work on their projects. In the first week back after each term, the children will present their completed homework to children and parents as part of our Homework Presentation afternoon. Parents will be invited into school to view the Homework Projects and ask children questions about them.

## Time Tables Rockstars and Mathletics

As a school, we have purchased Times Tables Rock Stars for children from Year 2 to Year 6. This is a carefully sequenced programme of online daily times tables practice.

Each class will concentrate on different Times Tables depending on the National Curriculum expectations for each year group.

As well as accessing this at school, children will be provided with log in details so they can practice tables at home on computers, iPad, tablets etc. The website is very child friendly, fun and interactive. Children can compete against each other and gain rewards as incentives.

In our Year 5 and Year 6 class, teachers will also use Mathletics to set maths homework. Mathletics is a captivating online math learning space, providing children with all the tools they need to be successful learners, both in the classroom and beyond.

## Reading

A clear guide of reading practice and expectations is set for each particular class from Year 1 to Year 6. In EYFS, parents will receive a 'Helping your child to read' letter when Ms Lilley judges that your child is developmentally ready to take a reading book home. As well as this, a Reading Rationale has been created outlining reading practice throughout the whole school. A major focus for our school is for our children to '**Read for Pleasure**'. As parents, you can support this at home by following the guidance in our Reading Rationale. .

Home reading books will be sent home on a Friday. They need to be returned to school by the following Thursday. When you listen to your child read, please fill in the relevant sections of the reading diary.

In EYFS and KS1, this is sufficient, as the focus is to ensure that children are able to read fluently.

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In KS2, children should complete the relevant comprehension questions located on Class Dojo. You can find the correct PDF by selecting the title of the book your child has read. Complete the questions by the Thursday night and then add them to the 'portfolio' section on Class Dojo. Your class teacher will then respond to your work. These questions are designed by the book publishers to consolidate children's comprehension.

## Lexia

As a school, we also use Lexia to support children with spelling and reading. Those children who use Lexia in school are also provided with log in details to take home so that they can access the programme as part of their homework set by class teachers.

## ED-SHED

Ed-Shed is a fun online educational website that includes Spelling Shed and Math Shed for fun ways to retain information. Teachers will also use this to support children with spelling and maths at home. Children play many fun games whilst also working through the complete Spelling curriculum.

Class Dojo will be used by teachers to communicate with parents and children regarding homework set when applicable, and provide timely feedback.

## Class Homework

Each class teacher will decide on homework. It will focus on the priorities and National Curriculum objectives of each particular class e.g. Phonics. Teachers may set homework linked to an area of Maths or English if they feel children need to consolidate learning or have found an area or specific topic particularly challenging. Homework will also be more focused on the individual child. For example if your child is finding a specific area of learning challenging, then homework will be sent to support addressing this. Similarly, if your child has excelled in a particular area, then homework may be sent to extend learning and provide extra challenge.

Homework has to be productive. Its purpose is to either consolidate learning, move learning forward or both. Teachers will not set homework that is not productive for the children in their class. They will use their professional judgment to set homework tasks that meets the needs of all children. Please see below for a brief summary of homework in class.

## EYFS:

During EYFS from Autumn 1 week 4 the children are given Sounds write homework on a Friday afternoon to consolidate their learning. The work is expected to be completed with an adult and to remain at home. During Autumn 1 when reception children begin the White Rose Maths programme, EYFS children start to take home a maths game from reception's maths game lending library. The children keep the game for one week. Upon return, the children are then issued with a new one.

During Autumn 1 when Sounds write Phonics programme begins children who are developmentally ready begin to take home a levelled reading book matched to their phonics ability.

## Year 1/Year 2 Class

Reading is an essential life skill and needs to be practiced regularly for children to make progress. We recommend that you read with your child DAILY. This does NOT need to be the book provided by school. We suggest that you and your child read the book from school at least 3 times a week, to work on decoding, fluency and understanding (comprehension).

This year our homework will be via the following virtual platforms:

- Ed Shed – Spelling Shed: Spellings linked to Sounds-Write units and common exception words
- Ed Shed – Maths Shed: Maths activities to support and consolidate teaching in school
- Times Tables Rockstar's: 2x, 5x, 10x and 3x times **\*\*Year 2 children only\*\***

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## Sounds-Write

On a Friday, we will also send home a worksheet with activities based on the sounds we have been working on during the week. These will be easy activities that will consolidate children's knowledge. These activities will be coming from the Sounds-Write Extended Code Workbook. Children are **not** required to bring this back to school but photos can be taken and shared with me via Class Dojo.

## Lexia

Our school is using Lexia Reading Core 5, a computer-based program to build reading skills. The programme can be used at home for extra practice. Lexia is being used this year as an intervention tool for those children who we have identified as needing some extra support with their phonics/reading skills. Not every child will have access to this program but those who do should use this as often as possible to support their reading. This will be reviewed on a termly basis.

## Year 2/Year 3 Class

First and foremost, I believe homework should be an enjoyable activity that is purposeful and meaningful to a learner's education. In Maple Class, homework is distributed when it is appropriate to consolidate or extend learning. This will be distributed in the form of either paper in school bags or on Class Dojo. Homework should be completed to the usual standard of schoolwork, using a writing pencil and lined paper where appropriate. Furthermore, weekly homework should be completed, in the form of approximately 10 minutes spelling practice during the week on EdShed and 5 minutes practice during the week on Times Table Rockstars. Until Autumn 2, children should be consolidating the times tables from the previous year group, therefore Year 2 will be exempt from this. This will be incentivised in class in order for children to remain motivated and encouraged to learn. It is my belief that using these forms of 'gamification' activities will also intrinsically motivate children and should be an enjoyable experience.

## Year 4/5 Class

Times Tables Rock Stars:

Year 4 will have a times tables check at the end of the year. Times Tables Rock Stars is a fun and engaging way of practising your times tables. Year 5 will require this mental arithmetic in order to prepare for their Year 6 SATs. This uses the exact format of the test. I would recommend 10 minutes daily if possible; this app is very easy to use on the drive to school or the supermarket even! Times tables will be set weekly.

## Ed-Shed:

Ed-Shed will predominantly be used to set spelling homework. This app works in a similar way to Times Tables Rock Stars in that children can earn prizes (honey pots) which they can use to upgrade and decorate their avatar. Again, this app is very user friendly and children will be able to practise their spellings whilst travelling and such. Spellings will be set weekly; in class, children will complete a 'cold hive', which is a pre-assessment of their knowledge of the particular spelling rule. Later on in the week children will complete a 'hot hive' after they have practiced at home. This should show the progression that children have made in their spelling. Again, I would recommend 10 minutes daily if possible.

This app also has some other homework features such as times tables and number bonds. We will use these features as the need presents itself. I will communicate this with you through Dojo.

## Lexia:

Lexia is an intervention tool used to support children with their reading. Not every child will have access to this program but those who do should use this as often as possible to support their reading.

## Reading:

Year 4 and 5 will begin to bring reading books home. We have invested heavily in developing our reading curriculum to continue giving our children the best start in education possible.

In Key Stage Two, the new home readers are fantastically engaging and will allow children to begin delving into the world of classical literature. These home readers are a significant investment, but Oxford Owl Reading Tree is used across the world with exceptional testimonials.

Home readers will go home once a week on a Friday, children will have the books for one week and must return them by the following Thursday. The books will alternate between fiction and non-fiction and it is an expectation that for the fiction books children will complete a short comprehension activity to be

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submitted in school. These activities will be made available on the school website and should be submitted via Classroom Dojo using the portfolio section for teachers to give feedback. Giving children to opportunity to read and re-read books is crucial in developing their comprehension skills alongside their decoding abilities.

## **Year 6 Class:**

Completing tasks at home is proven beneficial to the retention of information and skills that can be applied at school to help improve the quality of children's work. With that in mind, all homework set this year in Year 6, will be specific and purposeful to the work we are completing in school. Also, homework features heavily in KS3 learning and it is our job to ensure that children are KS3 ready when leaving our school; it is therefore important that we encourage the meeting of deadlines.

Homework can often be difficult to complete due to the nature of the tasks or support required. This is something we would like to avoid, so we will continue to use apps in a fun, interactive and competitive way to help to encourage the completion of homework and the willingness to practise and consolidate skills outside of the classroom.

Year 6 homework will be set on Monday with a completion deadline of the following Monday. These will primarily be English and Maths based tasks on Mathletics and Century. Children will also be encouraged to take responsibility for their own learning and make use of Ed Shed and Times Tables Rock Stars daily to further improve their knowledge. Those children who are unable to complete the set work at home; will be offered opportunities to complete this in school.

Signed

Head Teacher

Chair of Governors