



## **MARLBOROUGH PRIMARY SCHOOL: GUIDELINES ON HOMEWORK**

**“Parents have an important stake in the education of their children and play a significant part in supporting their children’s learning. Effective parental involvement sets aspirations and shapes the child’s self-concept as a learner.”**

*(ESTYN: ‘Good Practice in Parental Involvement in Primary Schools’, April 2009)*

At Marlborough Primary School, we value the support of parents and carers and recognise that our parents / carers are interested in their children’s learning and progress within the school.

A recent parental survey within the school showed that about half of our parents are keen for their children to receive homework on a regular basis. Some parents would like occasional homework; others do not want any homework to be set at all.

Homework is not a statutory requirement at Primary School level; it is therefore regarded as an option for the Head Teacher to decide whether the school will administer homework, in what form and the frequency of the activities. It is optional and it is the decision of the parents / carers as to whether they wish their child to complete homework tasks.

In order to accommodate those parents / carers who would like their children to complete homework, and to prepare our older pupils for High School, our teachers set regular (weekly) homework.

Class teachers plan the curriculum carefully. An overview of each half term’s work is available via the school website (copies available from the school office should parents have no access to the Internet).

The aim of homework is to consolidate any work that is being done in class, or to prepare the children for imminent classroom tasks/topics.

Under these guidelines it is the school’s responsibility to administer regular homework. The role of the class teacher is to set homework and to mark it when it is returned by a given date. It is not guaranteed that any homework handed in beyond that date will be marked.

It is the child and parent / carers’ responsibility to ensure that the work is taken home. We actively encourage children to complete the task with the support of their parents / carers and to return it to the class where children should place the homework in the designated location. Class teachers will not actively chase up homework.

Should pupils find homework difficult, we invite parents to annotate the work or send a brief note to the class teacher explaining any difficulties; the teacher may then follow up this work with the child in class if they feel it is appropriate. It is not our intention to make homework onerous in any way and class teachers welcome any feedback on homework tasks.

Below are listed the general homework tasks for each year group. Undoubtedly, there will be occasions when work is not sent home as expected. This may be for a number of reasons. There will also be occasions where children may be asked to learn lines or songs for a class assembly or Christmas concert and this may take the place of their regular homework for a week or two.

In addition, it is beneficial to our pupils if parents carry out certain tasks and skills on a regular basis:

- Learning times tables (see table below)

YEAR GROUP	RECALL AND USE THE FOLLOWING TIMES TABLES:
1	Count on in 2s,5s,10s
2	2,5,10
3	2,3,4,5,10
4	2,3,4,5,6,7,10
5	2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10
6	all tables up to 12 x 12

- Number bonds – addition and subtraction
- Regular reading
- BIG TALK (the TALK topics are texted to parents on a Friday)
- TALK homework which is set by each Year Group to support THE BIG WRITE on a Thursday morning.

(Curriculum newsletters outline the topics which are taught each half term).

### **An Overview of Homework tasks at Marlborough**

#### **Nursery:**

There is guidance for how parents can support their child at home on the half-termly curriculum newsletter, which can be found on the school website. Please contact the school office if you require a paper version.

#### **Reception:**

- reading words on balloon sheets
- One free choice and one banded reading book twice a week.

#### **Year 1:**

- reading words on balloon sheets
- One free choice and one banded reading book twice a week.
- High frequency word and phonics lists sent home half termly but no follow up test (words practised in phonics and Guided Group Reading sessions in class)
- weekly homework; maths and literacy alternate weeks.

### **Year 2:**

- reading words on balloon sheets (if a child needs further reinforcement)
- One free choice and one banded reading book twice a week.
- high frequency word lists sent home half termly
- phonics lists sent home weekly with a follow up test (words practised in phonics and Guided Group Reading sessions in class)
- weekly homework; maths and literacy alternate weeks

### **Years 3-6:**

- Weekly spelling lists, on which the children are tested.
- Reading books- to be changed on a weekly basis
- Weekly homework –maths and literacy alternate weeks;  
(Year 6 usually set two weekly homework tasks, generally one maths and one literacy, in preparation for High School).