



Pilgrims School

Homework Policy

January 2023

Next review date: January 2024



Please note: 'School' refers to Early Years Foundation Stage (Little Pilgrims, Kindergarten and Pre School) and Pilgrims Main School.

Parents, carers and families have a vital role to play in helping their children achieve their full potential – at school, college or university, in work and in life as a whole. Parents' aspirations, what they do with their children at home, and how they support their child's learning and development before and during school can have a real impact on how well their children succeed.

Department for Education

What is homework?

We define homework as any activity that pupils undertake outside of school lesson time to enhance their learning. At Pilgrims we have a strong commitment to parental involvement and see homework as one way of developing this partnership.

Why is homework important?

- It promotes parent interest and involvement in their child's learning, helping to encourage discussion, interest and an enthusiasm of further learning.
- It helps inform parents about their child's school work and allows the opportunity for the learning to be supported at home.
- It is a great opportunity to rehearse and practise key skills such as reading, number facts, times tables and spellings.
- It can help raise a child's achievement.
- It helps foster good habits of organisation and self-discipline for the next phase of education and beyond.

Through this policy we aim to:

- Ensure a consistent approach throughout the school
- Take into account the needs of each individual pupil
- Ensure parents/carers understand clearly what is expected of them and their child
- Extend and support each child's learning experience
- Provide opportunities for parents, pupils and school to work in partnership
- Create opportunities for parents and their children to work together and to enjoy learning experiences

Routines and expectations

As part of our Creative Curriculum, parents are sent home a curriculum overview at the beginning of each topic from Reception upwards. This leaflet sets out the children's learning journey for the upcoming term, detailing enrichment experiences, questions and skills that may be covered and things parents might like to do at home. At the end of each week year groups email the parents to update them on the week's events and highlight any areas that parents may like to reinforce at home. During the holidays the children may be given a 'take home task' related to their topic. The take home tasks can range from a design and make task to practising a skill such as riding a bike without stabilizers and learning about road safety.

Our home learning activities are related to the learning tasks set at school. It begins with our Pre School children's Sound Book which is used to support the phonics teaching. If it is appropriate reading books may be introduced to share at home.

As the children move into Reception, they bring home their reading books every night to read and have 'tricky word' bookmarks and phonic cards to practise. There are also optional weekly phonic activities to support the work taught. Individual 'Keep Up' work is shared with the parents following the phonic assessments to support the 'Keep Up' work in school. To support the development of handwriting, the children take their Thinkwrite Handwriting book home each week to practise the letter of the week. From the beginning of the spring term Numbots is introduced and is available as an optional home activity.

In Year 1 the children continue to practise their reading and also have weekly spellings to practise daily alongside their Numbots mental maths practise. Teachers introduce a weekly reading comprehension from February half term, as appropriate. From the summer term a weekly maths skill practise is set each week to consolidate the work in class.

As the children move into Year 2 they continue with the reading and spellings. Additionally, they also have a piece of numeracy homework and they use the TT Rockstars program to practise their times tables each week.

We suggest the children should spend between 10–15 minutes a day on reading. In Year 1 and 2 an additional 10 minutes is needed for spellings and number practise. The weekly maths homework in Year 2 should not be exceeding half an hour and is a chance for the children to consolidate the skills they have been learning in class. If there is ever an occasion, with any homework, where a child is struggling to complete the homework set or if homework is becoming a source of conflict, we encourage the parents to speak to their child's class teacher. We want homework to be a positive, manageable and enjoyable experience for all concerned.

Year Group	Homework
Pre School	Sound Book Reading book if appropriate
Reception	Reading 3 x a week Own choice library book to share at home Tricky word bookmarks Phonic cards Optional weekly phonic reinforcement activities Keep Up phonic tasks if applicable Handwriting Practice Holiday 'Take Home Tasks' From January, optional Numbots practice
Year 1	Daily reading including weekly reading comprehension (from Feb half term, introduced as appropriate) Own choice library book to share at home Weekly spellings to be practised daily Ten minutes weekly mental maths practice using Numbots program Tricky Word flash cards where appropriate Phonic flashcards where appropriate Holiday time 'Take Home Tasks' Maths skill practise (from the summer term)
Year 2	Daily reading including weekly reading comprehension Own choice library book to share at home Weekly spellings to be practised daily

	Common Exception Word flash cards where appropriate Holiday time 'Take Home Tasks' Weekly numeracy homework Weekly mental maths practice using TT Rockstars and Numbots program
--	--

Children with Special Educational Needs (SEN) and able, gifted and talented children (A,G&T).

We set homework for all children as a normal part of school life. We ensure that all tasks set are appropriate to the ability of the child. Children who participate in SEN lessons or A,G&T group sessions may be set some specific additional tasks to support their learning.

The role of parents and carers.

Parents and carers are a key part in the homework partnership and we value the support they offer the children. Parents can best support their child's learning by:

- Providing a reasonably peaceful, suitable place in which their child can do their homework.
- Offering lots of praise and encouragement.
- Encouraging their child to discuss homework tasks with them.
- Supporting their child with their homework activities whilst also encouraging some independence.

Review

This policy will be reviewed as part of the schools monitoring cycle.

Linked policies: Relevant curriculum subjects, SEN Policy, A,G&T policy