

Home Learning Policy

Introduction

At Low Trenchard C of E School we recognise the vital role parents play in the education of their children. We strongly believe in the value of home-school partnership, of which our home learning policy is an important element. Home learning is defined as any learning or activities which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents or carers.

At Low Trenchard we see learning done at home as a valuable part of school learning.

Our Home Learning Philosophy

We believe that home learning:

- Provides a home/school link and promotes liaison
- Increases parental knowledge and understanding of their child/children's learning
- Actively involves parents in the learning process
- Generates discussion at home amongst family members
- Encourages a positive attitude and approach to learning
- Encourages self-motivation and the development of organisational skills
- Fosters independent learning
- Encourages constructive use of spare time
- Improves pupil achievement
- Assists language development and encourages a love of reading
- Does not have to be written

At Low Trenchard, teaching staff recognise that pupils who have spent a busy day at school need time to relax and unwind at the end of the afternoon. We are also mindful of the need to encourage children to pursue out of school activities, e.g. swimming, ballet, Beavers, Brownies, music lessons etc.

Home Reading

The importance of reading at home cannot be over-emphasised and we hope that children will read for pleasure in their own time. Pupils will be provided with a suitable school reading book, which can be taken home to read with a parent or other adult person.

Pupils who are at the start of their reading learning, will be sent home phonetically decodable books that link to the sounds that they are learning in school. It is important that they re-read these books in order to develop fluency and to ensure that they can understand what they have read.

As pupils become fluent readers, they will move onto the “Accelerated Reader” program. They will be regularly assessed to ensure that they are developing their comprehension skills and that they are reading widely.

Spellings

Pupils will be set weekly spellings by their class teacher on “The Spelling Shed”. This is an online resource where pupils can play games to improve their spellings. Teachers can monitor pupil participation. This resource is available for pupils from Reception class up to Year 6.

Maths

Pupils from years 2-6 will have access to Times Table Rock Stars, an online resource to practise tables skills at home. This can also be monitored by Teachers. By the end of Year 4, children are expected to know all of the times tables up to 12 x 12. In Year 5 and 6 we need to continue to revise these so that we can improve our recall speed. Rapid recall of these times tables is essential for the maths that we undertake in Year 5 and 6. Most of our maths involves multiplication and division and we work at a much faster pace so it is important that your children are confident in all of the times tables and can recall them instantly. Therefore, it is important that your children engages with Times Table Rock Stars for at least ten minutes a day. They can practice in the ‘Garage’ but also need to engage with the ‘Studio’ sessions to record their current time. They need to complete 3 Studio games per day as well as any practice they need in the garage.

If pupils have difficulty accessing the internet, please let your class teacher know.

Theme learning

At the beginning of each new theme, teachers will send home knowledge organisers for pupils to use to learn key knowledge and facts that they will need to know in their new theme learning. Pupils will be “quizzed” throughout the theme period (usually four weeks) to ensure that they have a good understanding of the knowledge required. We will be focusing out in-class learning on the skills that are required for the subject and so it is important that they have a good grasp on the knowledge that they can then apply to the skills they have learned. They need to continue to read and revise these throughout the topic. We will also be sending home knowledge organisers for science.

Part of my responsibility in Upper Key Stage 2 is to prepare your children for their transition to secondary school where they will receive regular home learning tasks to be completed independently. These few home learning tasks that we are asking of them each week will not only support their in-school learning but will also prepare them for the next step in their education.