



:: Hawkes Farm - Homework Policy ::

Research consistently shows that children do best at school when parents and carers are involved in their child's learning. A good homework policy will help secure that involvement, and ensure it continues throughout a child's time at Hawkes Farm, not just in the early years.

The purposes of homework::

- *to provide practice in aspects of class work*
- *to enable pupils to become independent learners*
- *to encourage pupils to manage their time*
- *to foster a partnership between home and school*
- *to provide parents & carers with an opportunity to share in their child's learning*
- *to enable parents to be involved and informed about the type of work being undertaken in class*

The Government believes that children in KS1 should be spending about 1 hour a week on 'homework', which amounts to just over 10 minutes per weekday. At this age, homework will consist mainly of reading, spellings and general literacy or numeracy work.

At KS2 the time spent on homework should gradually increase and, *in addition to regular reading*, will include more varied activities:

Y3/4 – 1.5 hours per week, or about 20 minutes a day
Y5/6 – 30 minutes a day.

Types of homework::

- *reinforcement of class work*
- *research topics and investigations*
- *preparation for class work*
- *reading, spelling and tables*
- *activities related to personal and social development*

Further information about the curriculum at Hawkes Farm can be found on the school's web-site www.hawkesfarm.sch.uk. The local libraries do provide internet access as well as a range of books to support learning.

It is important that everyone is clear about expectations, and so we set out - year group by year group - our current practice...

:: RECEPTION, YEAR 1 AND YEAR 2 ::

*Reading everyday is crucial to children's learning.
Children are encouraged to take books home to share.*

Reception::

The emphasis in Reception is to encourage the parents to become involved in their children's learning. Homework is not set on a formal basis, but parents are asked to share a reading experience with their child on a daily basis, if possible. This may be reading a bedtime story to them, looking at their school reading book, learning sight words from the flashcards or working on their letter sound recognition.

Year 1::

In Year 1 the parents are asked to continue with regular reading sessions. The children's targets are also shared with parents and packs to support these are given, including flashcards of numbers or words that need working on. At the beginning of the spring term spellings are sent home regularly. Occasionally topic work is set for homework.

Year 2::

The emphasis on regular homework is continued on a daily basis and this includes daily reading sessions. In Literacy the children take home spellings every week to learn and some children have flashcards or activity sheets of words to focus on. The children are set homework for Numeracy on a fortnightly basis and are given a week to complete this. It is linked to the classroom learning. Occasionally topic work is set for homework.

Reading Books::

The children take home two books, one that they choose themselves and a reading scheme book. The changing of the reading scheme books will be decided by the class teacher as part of the child's reading skills development. However, they are free to change their self choice books on a daily basis.

Useful websites to support learning::

1. <http://www.bbc.co.uk-hitentertainment.com/bobthebuilder/uk/homepage.html>
2. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/funandgames>
3. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/laac/index.shtml>
4. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/barnabybear/>
5. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/numbertime/>

:: YEAR 3 AND YEAR 4 ::

In Years 3 and 4, all children receive weekly Literacy or Numeracy homework. They are expected to spend approximately 30 minutes completing the work. Occasionally the children may receive extra or alternative homework based on topic work in Geography or History.

Children receive their homework on a Friday and are expected to hand it in the following week. Individual teachers decide on the exact timing but the children usually have a few days after the weekend to complete the homework.

During these days the children are able to ask for help if they need it. In Numeracy, homework is chosen to revise the work that has been completed during the week. The children **will not** be working on any new concepts, so this should make life easier at home!

If homework is not completed on time and there is no good reason as to why it hasn't been handed in, then the children spend a break time completing the work. We do encourage children to speak to a teacher if they have found the homework very difficult so that we can assist whenever possible.

Children will change their reading books regularly and are expected to read on a daily basis. We ask that you try to minimise distractions during this time and try to engage your child in a conversation about the book to ensure that they understand what they are reading.

At this age children are often able to read words that they do not understand so simply *listening* to reading does not help to develop those important comprehension skills.

Each week the children have spellings to learn. This may take the traditional form of a list of words to learn; however, increasingly we will be asking the children to investigate spelling patterns and rules, and to use this knowledge to spell previously unseen words.

This is a much more interesting way to learn spellings than simple rote learning and will foster more independent spellers.

Useful websites to support learning:

1. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/dynamo/home.shtml>
2. http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/digger/7_9entry/7_9.shtml
3. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/spellits/>
4. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/starship/maths/index.shtml>
5. <http://www.primarygames.co.uk>

:: YEAR 5 AND YEAR 6 ::

At Upper Key Stage 2 (Years 5 and 6), all children receive Literacy and Numeracy homework on a weekly basis. They are expected to spend approximately 30 minutes on each. In Year 6 children may receive extra revision homework during the lead up to their end of year tests. This will include Science. In both Year groups, children receive their homework on a Friday and are expected to hand it in the following Tuesday. Children are informed that if they wish to receive any help they should seek it from their teacher at Monday lunchtime.

If homework isn't completed on time and there is no good excuse as to why it hasn't been handed in then those children will be asked to complete it during their break times.

The use of homework books varies across the Year groups. In Year 6 children are given a red Maths book and a blue English book in which they are expected to do all of their homework. In Year 5 children are given an exercise book in which they write their homework task and do some literacy work. However, for the majority of their homework, they receive a homework folder in which to put both Literacy and Maths work.

In both Year groups children are expected to do extra reading tasks once a week and they receive weekly spellings that they are expected to learn.

Useful websites to support learning::

1. <http://www.counton.org/>
This has advice for parents, games, puzzles and lots of activities to play online
2. <http://www.eduplace.com/kids/mhm/>
Very good series of 'lessons' on all sorts of areas of maths – again, interactive and fun
3. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/revisewise>
Helps your children prepare for the SAT Tests, not just in Maths but also in English and Science
4. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/skillswise>
Excellent resource to help with all Literacy and Numeracy skills for children and parents, games, information and skills testing
5. <http://www.engineeringinteract.org>
Excellent for practice of different scientific topics
6. <http://www.gridclub.com>
7. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/spellits>

The school subscribes to this excellent site. It can be accessed with the following login details –

User name: **haw4204**

Password: **bn271nd**