



VALENCE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Homework Policy

Date:	November 2021
Date for review:	November 2023

At Valence Primary School, homework is seen as an essential part of the children's learning. It is a chance to practise skills, consolidate understanding of work covered in school and develop good work habits. However, more important than any of these, it is an opportunity for children to widen their own interests, direct their own areas of learning and develop their thirst for knowledge and love for learning.

Aims:

1. Foster and enhance the home/school partnership;
2. Provide opportunities for parents to become more involved in their own child's learning;
3. Encourage greater independent learning and a desire to learn;
4. Provide a consistent whole school approach to homework;
5. Improve the overall quality of children's learning;
6. To help parents and children work together in enjoying their learning;
7. To help children develop their own learning strategies;

In consultation with parents, pupils, and staff, we have adopted an approach to homework that gives the children more opportunities to show their creativity and to take greater control of their own learning. This approach is called the '**Pick 'n' Mix menu**' and will be linked to topic work covered in each year group. Some regular areas of homework will continue to run daily/ weekly outside of the new homework framework.

- It is vitally important that every child reads at home every day, as the ability to read underpins all that we do at school and throughout life.
- Spelling, vocabulary and basic number skills, including times tables and number facts, are also essential, and need to be practised regularly.

PICK 'n' MIX homework.

At the start of a new topic of work, the teachers in each year-group will create a **Pick 'n' Mix menu**, where children will have homework tasks written on sweet shapes. The range of tasks will vary and will be determined primarily by the age and ability of the children. The tasks will be varied: some will be fairly straightforward to understand and complete and others will be more difficult, require more creativity or involve more higher-order thinking skills.

Over the course of the half term, the children will be free to pick and choose which homework tasks they attempt, the expectation is that they complete one activity each week.

The homework tasks will be presented as a 'Pick 'n' Mix menu' and will be linked to the theme of the current topic work. The homework menus for each year group will be sent every half term. As the children become more independent and capable of directing their own learning, they may even like to invent their own homework tasks and there are opportunities for this on the Pick 'n' Mix menu.

Teachers

- Each half term, teachers will upload the **Pick 'n Mix** to Google Classroom.
- Pupils who can upload their work to Google Classroom will be encouraged to do so as our primary tool for homework.
- Pupils will be provided with a Homework exercise book to record the tasks *where necessary* e.g. no access to internet and/or an IT device.
- Pupils who cannot access Google Classroom can bring their books into school at anytime during the half term, so that it can be checked.
- EYFS will utilise ClassDojo to communicate homework tasks to parents.

Example Pick'n'Mix menu

PICK & MIX

HOMework

Year 2 Homework Menu: Autumn Term 2, 2021 – GREAT PEOPLE, GREAT EVENTS

Every day:

- 5 - 10 minutes Spelling
- 5-10 minutes (or more) reading
- 5 minutes discussing what you've read
- 5 minutes chat about what you have learnt that day

Pick & Mix

Choose 1 item per week to complete in your homework book.

Completed tasks can be photographed and uploaded via Google Classroom/ClassDojo so that your class teacher can see your amazing work.

Literacy

If you were a child living during the Great Fire of London, how would you feel? Write a diary entry explaining your thoughts and feelings.

Maths

Download your School Jam app and play the different games to practise what we have been learning in class.

Look out for numbers all around – number of a bus, your door number – write down as many numbers as you can find when you are out and about.

Reading

Practise your Phonic sounds. Try reading and writing all the sounds you know. Can you make some 'Alien words?'

splump, dush, thob

Art

Create a picture of the Great Fire of London using HOT colours, such as red and orange.



Science

Design a winter outfit for a Teddy Bear. Think about which materials would keep the Bear warm and dry. Label your design.

History

Find out some interesting facts about Samuel Pepys and make a Fact File.



You could visit:
The Victoria and Albert Museum London - this is free to visit.

Computing

Have fun playing this game!
<http://www.fireoflondon.org.uk/game/>

You could use these websites to help:

<http://www.mathantics.com/>
<https://trockstars.com/login>
<https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/?s=africa>
<https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/?s=united-kingdom>
www.topmarks.co.uk

Current regular daily or weekly homework recommendations for each year group:

Reception

Talk time - 5 minutes chat about your day	Everyday
Reading at home, plus sound and word games to play at home	5 to 10 minutes reading 5 minutes discussing what you have read. At least 3 times each week, but daily if possible.
Pick 'n' Mix menu – linked to topic or ongoing work in school. A variety of activities and subjects Art, writing, computing, maths, science, geography, history, visiting interesting places etc.	One activity from the Pick 'n' Mix menu to be completed each week.

KEY STAGE 1 – years 1 and 2

Talk time - 5 minutes chat about what you have learnt that day	Everyday
Reading at home	10 minutes (or more) reading 5 minutes discussing what you have read. At least 3 times each week, but daily if possible.
Learning spelling words	Everyday 5-10 minutes.
Pick 'n' Mix menu – linked to topic or ongoing work in school. A variety of activities and subjects Art, writing, computing, maths, science, geography, history, visiting interesting places etc.	One activity from the Pick 'n' Mix menu to be completed each week.

KEY STAGE 2 – years 3,4, 5 and 6

Talk time - 5 minutes chat about what you have learnt that day	Everyday
Reading at home	10 minutes (or more) reading 5 minutes discussing what you have read. At least 3 times each week, but daily if possible.
Learning spelling sound chunk words and vocabulary meaning	Everyday -10 minutes.
Times Tables Rockstars	Everyday -10 minutes
Pick 'n' Mix menu – linked to topic or ongoing work in school. A variety of activities and subjects Art, writing, computing, maths, science, geography, history, visiting interesting places etc.	One activity from the Pick 'n' Mix menu to be completed each week in your homework book.

Please note that in Year 6, for some parts of the year, homework will focus on preparation for SATs.

Internet Safety

There are many websites containing highly educational material which can have a powerful effect on children's learning and links to some of these are accessible on our school website. A copy of the school's Online Safety policy is available from the school office and may also be found on the school website. The child's safety is paramount in all matters regarding use of the internet and we advise parents and carers to always supervise their child's access to the internet.

Parent / carers Role

Parents and carers have a vital role to play in their child's education, and homework is an important part of this process. We ask parents and carers to encourage their child to complete the homework tasks that are set. We invite them to help their children as and when they feel it to be necessary and to provide them with the sort of environment that allows children to do their best. Parents and carers can support their child by providing a good working space at home, by enabling their child to visit the library regularly, and by discussing the work that their child is doing. Ideally parents should read with their children every day to help them develop a love of books and stories and help them to grow in confidence. We ask parents and carers to sign their child's Reading Record to show that they have heard their child read and discussed the book with their child.