

Home Learning Policy



We define home learning as any activity that pupils undertake outside of school lesson time, either on their own or with the support of family members. At Kings Furlong Junior School, we have a strong commitment to parental involvement and see home learning as one way of developing this partnership. In supporting children's mental health and wellbeing, we also recognise the importance of striking the right balance of home learning and time for children to relax, enjoy clubs (including those out of school) and for children to be children.

Why give home learning?

- It gives the children the chance to reinforce crucial skills.
- It can further stimulate enthusiasm for creativity and learning.
- It takes advantage of the home environment and resources and the chance for some parent / child collaboration and allows parents to be better understand what the children are expected to learn.
- It can be a great source for gathering topic information to share with all the children.
- It helps to foster good habits of organisation and self-discipline in preparation for the demands of secondary school.

Home learning at our school

At Kings Furlong Junior School, we believe that home learning should be enjoyable and manageable for all concerned and that, if it becomes a chore/burden/source of conflict, it ceases to be a constructive aspect of teaching and learning.

We also recognise that for some families, the level of support and challenge for children is more demanding. For these families, we provide a guide to home learning which promotes appropriate resources and have suitable links on our school website. There is no time limit set on any of these home-initiated challenges, in which parents are responsible for monitoring their child's successes.

Our routines and expectations

The routines outlined below will be explained regularly at the start of each half term so that children are reminded of expectations:

- Reading:
 - Year 3 and 4 must read at least 15 minutes 4 times a week.
 - Year 5 and 6 must read at least 20 minutes 4 times a week.
 - Children on colour bands should be heard by an adult each time they read.
 - Children who are free reader's/ treasure chest books should read part of their book to an adult each time and talk about what they have read. From this point on, parents in Year 3 (and new families to the school) are issued with reading keyrings at parents' evening.
 - We ask for all parents to sign their child's Reading Log so that we can monitor book choices and the frequency of reading at home.

- Spelling:
 - A list of spellings will be sent home each week for children to practice. They can practice these in any way that they wish (there are suggestions on the parents' guide to home learning).
 - How the children practice their spellings will not be marked but their spelling test will be.
 - The spelling test will be in the back of the home learning book.
- Maths: Some aspects of maths are crucial in developing fluency. Each week the children will be set an area to learn so that key facts become very quick to recall, e.g.
 - Times tables.
 - Number bonds.

For Spelling and Maths home learning, the date of issue may vary between year groups but there will always be at least 5 nights (including the weekend) between issue and handing in.

- Project home learning:
 - One piece of creative home learning will be given for each project. Once completed, this will always be shared and celebrated in school.
 - Children will be given a number of weeks to complete this home learning and details of the task will be included on the project flyer as well as in the home learning book.
- Marking:
 - The practice children do at home will not be marked. However, the subsequent tests will be marked in class.
 - Project home learning will be celebrated (with their peers and often other classes) and children will receive many merits.
- Year 6:
 - Between Christmas and April, home learning will vary in Year 6 in order to prepare them for secondary school. Timings will still be reasonable, and efforts will always be made in order to ensure children remain in a state of good mental health.

We expect children to maintain the same standards for presentation of home learning as we set in school i.e. to use their best handwriting and a sharp pencil or blue pen (if they have earned their pen license).

It is our policy not to give any home learning over the holidays and half term breaks, other than reading as we aim for this to be a pleasure and not a chore.

If you take holiday during term-time, something we actively discourage, parents may not request work from the teacher. We suggest that parents organise a holiday diary, making use of the links on the school's website as well as the home learning brochure.

What to do if you have concerns

As with any other matter concerning your child's progress, please see the class teacher to discuss any home learning issues.

Reviewed: June 2025