**Torkington Primary School**

**Homework Policy**

**September 2105**

**At Torkington Primary School homework provides opportunities for parents and carers to take an active part in their child’s education. We define homework as a range of ‘activities that enrich, consolidate and support the development of the skills needed to be successful lifelong learners.’**

Ofsted launched its new inspection framework in September 2015 which makes reference to the setting of homework. In the outstanding grade descriptors for the quality of teaching, learning and assessment it states “Teachers set challenging homework, in line with the school’s policy and as appropriate for the age and stage of pupils, that consolidates learning, deepens understanding and prepares pupils very well for work to come.”

**Aims of this homework policy are:**

* To ensure consistency of approach throughout the school.
* To ensure parents/carers have a clear understanding of the expectations for themselves and the children.

**Aims of homework at Torkington are:**

* To promote cooperation and sharing between home and school.
* To consolidate, reinforce and where appropriate extend the learning completed in school.
* To apply the skills taught in school to ‘real life’ situations outside.
* To encourage the children to talk at home about what has happened in school so that you can share in their learning and support them in exploring new ideas.
* To make homework fun and manageable ensuring a balance between work and ‘downtime’ for the children and parents!
* To make homework easily accessible.
* To develop confident and independent learners.

**Homework activities**

All homework activities should be related to work that the children are, or will, be doing in school. However, homework should not always be written work and could include:

* Reading with parents/carers
* Talk Topics – this could be a question, picture or a statement the children are asked to talk about with an adult.
* Preparing a presentation to the class.
* Playing games to practise mathematical skills.
* Finding out information.
* Making something.
* Trying out a simple scientific experiment.
* A craft activity e.g. cooking, collage
* Going to the local library.
* ICT activities linked with mathematics and literacy.
* Sharing experiences (PSHE) e.g. class pet or home/school share bear.
* More Able Writers project in KS2.
* ‘Situation Solving’ activities.
* Tables and arithmetic practise.

**Homework routines**

A breakdown of how homework activities are structured in each year group is provided below.

It has been designed to:

* Encourage a gradual progression of skills and expectations so by the time children reach year 6 they have established a clear routine in preparation for high school.
* Give time in the week for children’s other activities i.e. at least 2 nights will always be given to complete work.
* Help parents plan their week i.e. the days to hand in homework have been planned so parents who have children in different classes understand the weekly expectations.

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| Year Group | Routines | Homework Tasks |
| **Nursery** | Given out on a Friday for the weekend.  Returned to school by Wednesday. | **Home/School Bear**  **Library Books**   * Parents share books at home from a selection in the Nursery. |
| **Website**   * Homework * Next week’s learning * Links to websites to support current learning     **Topic Projects**  At the end of each half term the children will be set a research based project over the holidays related to the next topic. |

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| Year Group | Books | Routines | Homework Tasks |
| **Reception** | Homework Book Blue Cover  Sharing Stories  Purple Cover | Returned to school on a Wednesday.  Marked and new homework sent out on Friday. | These headings will be used each week:  **English**   * **Reading** * **Key Words -** a list of key words to practise reading at home. * **Handwriting** a letter focus from pack given in Autumn 1   **Mathematics**  An open ended activity or game.  **Website**   * Homework * Next week’s learning * Links to websites to support current learning   **Topic Projects**  At the end of each half term the children will be set a research based project over the holidays related to the next topic.  **Sharing Stories**  Library books – children choose a book and draw a picture / label characters from story. |
| Key Word Book  Green Cover | Returned to school on a Wednesday.  Key word check on a Thursday  New words written in and given out on Friday. |
| Reading Home School Diary  Yellow Cover | Brought to school every day.  Children / parents write in a comment after they have read at home.  Opportunity to change books Wednesday and Friday |

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| Year Group | Books | Routines | Homework Tasks |
| **Key Stage 1**  **Years 1 and 2** | Homework Book  Purple Cover | Returned to school on a Wednesday.  Marked and new homework sent out on Friday. | These headings will be used each week:  **English**   * **Reading** * **Spelling Review -** a list of words which follow the spelling patterns taught in their Phonic groups that week. * **Handwriting** a sheet to practise correct letter formation.   **Mathematics**  An open ended activity or game.  **Topic Talk**  A series of questions, a picture or a story to talk about. It can be related to a piece of extended writing , the current topic or an area of learning the children have shown an interest in.  **Website**   * Homework * Next week’s learning * Links to websites to support current learning   **Topic Projects**  At the end of each half term the children will be set a research based project over the holidays related to the next topic. |
| Key Word Book  Green Cover | Returned to school on a Wednesday.  Spelling check on a Thursday in Phonic groups.  New words written in and given out on Friday. |
| Reading Home School Diary  Yellow Cover | Brought to school every day.  Children / parents write in a comment after they have read at home.  Opportunity to change books daily. |

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| Year Group | Books | Routines | Homework Tasks |
| **Years 3 and 4** | Homework  Blue Cover | Returned to school on a Wednesday.  Marked and new homework sent out on Friday. | These headings will be used each week:  **English**   * **Reading** * **Spelling lists** * **Spelling** a sheet to practise the focus of the week.   **Mathematics**  An open ended activity or game.  **Website**   * Homework * Next week’s learning * Links to websites to support current learning   **Topic Projects**  At the end of each half term the children will be set a research based project over the holidays related to the next topic. |
| Spelling  In Homework Book on sheet | Returned to school on a Wednesday.  Spelling check on a Friday  New words written in and given out on Friday in the homework book. |
| Reading Home School Diary –  Yellow Cover | Diary checked as they come in.  Opportunities for children to change their books daily. |

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| Year Group | Books | Routines | Homework Tasks |
| **Years 5 and 6** | Homework  Yellow Cover | Returned to school on a Wednesday.  Marked and new homework sent out on Friday. | These headings will be used each week:  **English**   * **Reading** * **Spelling** * **Spelling** a sheet to practise the focus of the week.   **Mathematics**  A consolidation of week’s learning.  **Website**   * Homework * Next week’s learning * Links to websites to support current learning   **Topic Projects**  At the end of each half term the children will be set a research based project over the holidays related to the next topic. |
| Spelling  In Yellow Homework Book | Spelling test on a Friday in the back of Homework Book.  New words written in and given out on Friday. |
| Home/ School  Homework Diary  Yellow Cover. | Diary checked as they come in.  Opportunities for parents and teachers to communicate |

**Year 6**

**Please note this routine may change due to preparation for transition to Key Stage 3.**

**Roles and Responsibilities**

**School Staff**

* To provide a range of homework tasks and activities to consolidate and extend where appropriate learning in class.
* To set homework appropriate to the needs of the children
* To ensure that the children have a clear understanding of the tasks involved and a common understanding of the high expectations held of them individually according to their ability
* To communicate with parents and keep them informed of topics to be studied and class information.
* To mark homework in line with the feedback and marking policy.

**Children**

* To tackle homework promptly and with a Growth Mindset.
* To take responsibility for handing their homework in on the agreed day.
* To be organised so that necessary books and equipment are not left at school.
* Listen carefully in class to make sure they understand what is asked of them.
* Complete their homework using appropriate materials.

**Parents/Carers**

* To support school in explaining to children that homework is valued and aids learning
* To encourage their children and praise them homework is completed.
* Where possible provide a suitable space in their home where children can concentrate on their homework and appropriate materials.
* Discuss the homework each week with their child
* Contact the school if they are not sure of some aspect of the homework or if their child is experiencing difficulties in doing it.

**Headteacher**

* Promote this policy by raising its status and importance.
* Ensure the policy is easily accessible to parents.
* Keep up to date with new developments with regard to homework.
* Monitor and evaluate this policy.

**Governing Body**

* To delegate powers and responsibilities to the Curriculum Committee and to the Headteacher to oversee the development of this policy.
* The link governor to visit the school regularly to liaise with the Headteacher and to report back to the Governing Body
* To be responsible for the effective implementation monitoring and evaluation of this policy.

**Feedback**

It is important that feedback is given to pupils as quickly as possible. This is given in a number of ways:

* Immediately by parents or carers
* Discussion in class where homework is part of the classwork
* Through tests such as tables and spellings
* Individual comments from the teacher on written pieces
* Class discussion
* Pupils reviewing the work done in small groups
* Presentation of homework in class and school assemblies

**Parents/carers are asked to:**

* Give teachers any feedback they feel might be useful
* Encourage their children to talk about the feedback they have received
* Contact the school if they have any concerns

**Monitoring and effectiveness of the policy**

The effectiveness of this policy will be reviewed annually or when the need arises and the necessary recommendations for improvements will be made to Governors.

**Headteacher**: Mr A Buckler Date: September 2015

**Chair of Governors**: Date: September 2015