

*'So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you.'*  
Matthew 7:12



## Home Learning Policy

At St Mark's Primary School we believe learning is a life-long ongoing process that is not exclusive to school. We define 'Home Learning' as any activity undertaken by our pupils outside of the normal school day either independently or with the help of someone at home that contributes to their learning.

Home Learning is an important part of a child's education and can add much to a child's development and level of attainment. We recognise the vital role that parents play in their children's learning and value home-school partnerships, of which our home learning policy is an important element. We also acknowledge the vital role of play and free-time in a child's growth and development therefore taking part in various out-of-school clubs and other organisations also play an important part in the lives of our children.

We are well aware that children spend more time at home than at school, and we believe that they develop their interests and skills to the full only when parents/carers encourage them to make maximum use of the opportunities available outside school.

### Aims and Objectives

Our aims and objectives at St Mark's Primary School is to provide children with a lifelong positive attitude to learning, with a strong partnership between school and home being at the heart of successful education. The provision of home learning activities by the school will:

- enable children to develop as learners
- promote a partnership between home and school in supporting each child's learning
- consolidate and reinforce learning in school and allow children to practice skills taught in lessons
- allow all aspects of the curriculum to be covered in sufficient depth
- allow all children to make maximum progress in their academic and social development
- help parents and carers to gain an insight into their children's learning at school
- help all children to take a more active role in their own learning
- help children to develop the confidence and self-discipline needed to learn independently and prepare them for the requirements of secondary education
- enable all children to develop good work habits for the future

### Types of Home Learning Tasks

Home Learning activities throughout the school have an emphasis upon the basic skills of English and Mathematics. We will always provide pupils with home learning that builds on prior learning that has been taught within the progressive framework.

At St Mark's Primary School we expect children to complete the following as part of their home learning.

### EYFS Pupils

- regular conversations at home to develop language skills
- daily reading together at home
- regular phonics work, practice focused sounds using your child's phonics sound mat (located in the back of the yellow reading book)
- regular number games, counting and nursery rhymes, singing
- regular sharing of bedtime stories

### Key Stage 1 (Year 1 and Year 2) Pupils

- regular conversations at home to develop language skills
- daily reading of reading book
- regular phonics sound work (if needed) using phonics sound mat (located in back of the yellow reading book)
- regular number games, counting, number bonds and number patterns
- play board games that involve taking turns to foster patience and co-operative play
- regular practice 2, 5 and 10 times table (Year 2 only). TT Rock Stars is available to access for practicing timetables for year 2
- weekly spellings using 'Spelling Shed' (Year 2) to learn to spell and practice statutory words from the National Curriculum word list for year 2 pupils

### Key Stage 2 (Years 3, 4 and 5)

- reading at least 3 times a week (school book, library book, recipe book, newspaper, magazine etc)
- weekly spellings using 'Spelling Shed' to learn to spell and practice statutory words from the National Curriculum word list for each year group
- at least twice weekly, practice times tables 1 to 12 as rapid recall using TT Rockstars
- weekly access to Mathletics, work is assigned linked to the learning in class
- regular practical mathematical activities such as counting money, telling the time, recognizing and naming shapes using terms such as number of side, vertices (corners) and lines of symmetry, weighing and measuring using terms such as litres, millilitres, metre, centimetre, gram, kilogramme

### Year 6

- reading at least 3 times a week
- weekly spellings using 'Spelling Shed' to practice assigned words from the National Curriculum statutory word list for year 6 pupils
- at least three times per week, access TT Rockstars to practice times tables
- weekly access to Mathletics to complete assigned activities
- during the Spring Term, Year 6 pupils will be given additional activities, such as revision to prepare them for their Key Stage 2 SAT's and for the transition into secondary school. This additional learning will be targeted for both the subject and the pupils.

### Digital Learning Resources

The school recognizes the usefulness of educational software programs and, to support children's learning in a fun and interactive way, subscribes to several online platforms. Specific tasks, which are optional, are set by the teacher.

### Resources Available

- Oxford Owl (Reception to Year 2) for a variety of reading materials
- Spelling Shed (Year 2 to Year 6) for spelling practice
- Mathletics (Year 2 to Year 6) for mathematical activities
- TT Rockstars (Year 2 to Year 6) for practicing time tables

In order to access these resources, usernames and passwords are given to specific year groups or pupils. There are many websites containing highly educational material which can support learning. Parents/carers are advised to always supervise their child's access to the Internet.

### Additional Home Learning Tasks

At the beginning of each term knowledge organisers will be available on the class pages of the school website - [www.st-marks.lancs.sch.uk](http://www.st-marks.lancs.sch.uk) Knowledge organisers explore ideas for extra learning opportunities and topics for discussion. They include key vocabulary and key knowledge. Knowledge organisers are to supplement weekly home learning expectations, where parents feel are appropriate, and can be used as an assessment to see what your child already knows at the start of a new topic and what your child has learnt at the end of the topic. Parents can use these to connect school learning with real-world experiences. Home learning should never be too onerous nor should it ever create stress within the pupil's family. If parents have any concerns they should not hesitate to contact the school.

### Celebration of Home Learning

If pupils wish to complete optional topic tasks throughout the term they will be shared in class and celebrated through 'Home Learning Heroes' assemblies in school or church and displayed on our 'Home Learning Wall of Fame' in school each half-term. Parents will be able to share their pupil's learning during work share afternoons and parent consultation evenings.

### Equal Opportunities

The governors and staff are committed to providing the full range of opportunities for all pupils, regardless of gender, disability, ethnicity, social, cultural or religious background. All pupils have access to the curriculum, and the right to a learning environment, which dispels ignorance, prejudice and stereotyping.

As pupils have different learning needs there may be times when pupils receive different home learning tasks from their peers in order to support them in a specific area

To be reviewed December 2025

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