

Homework Policy

Thoresby Vale Primary Academy

1. Aims

- To provide a clear definition of the purpose and nature of homework at Thoresby Vale.
- To establish how homework will be organised.
- To identify the roles and responsibilities of those involved.

2. Definition and purpose

At Thoresby Vale, we view homework as being a supported or independent task undertaken outside of curriculum time which reinforces, extends or enriches current learning and key skills.

The purpose of homework at Thoresby Vale is to:

- provide opportunities for parents to be involved in their child's learning
- enable children to practise and consolidate skills
- broaden the context of learning and provide enrichment and extension
- help children to develop skills and attitudes they need for successful lifelong learning, including self-discipline
- encourage the development of independent learning skills, including enquiry, research and investigation
- promote the idea that learning extends beyond the classroom and can be achieved in many ways
- prepare older children for the demands of Secondary School.

3. What will my child be expected to do?

Homework provided by school is just one aspect of activities which children may be involved in outside of school and we acknowledge the value of participation in clubs and activities which develop children's broader skills. As such, we will provide optional homework tasks that our children can complete around their additional commitments.

Reading

Reading is a vital part of the school curriculum, and we are passionate about encouraging our children to become lifelong readers. It is important that children read as regularly as possible at home each week. Parents are encouraged to help their child develop key reading skills throughout their time at Thoresby Vale. Parents are also encouraged to make the most of other reading opportunities around the environment, e.g., signs, menus, labels, eBooks. Children are

encouraged to read widely, not just from their schoolbook. All children are able to take home school library books and individual reading books to read and share at home. Children also benefit hugely from being read to by adults at home.

Homework Menu

Every term, children from Reception to Year 6 are provided with an optional homework menu based on their current learning. This menu outlines a range of optional tasks which cover the majority of curriculum areas that the children can choose to complete. Completion of these tasks to a high standard earns the children 5 Thor Points and often results in receiving additional recognition through Principal Star Awards.

Times Tables Rockstars

Times Table Rockstars is an online learning tool which the children can access at home anytime. It can be used by the children to consolidate their learning in maths and to practise their times table facts.

Upper Key Stage 2

Where necessary, children in Year 5 and 6 may be set compulsory homework to support their learning and to begin to prepare them for secondary school. There is an expectation that children complete homework that they are asked to do. However, we recognise that at certain times and for various reasons this may not be possible.

If children are unable to complete homework due to home circumstances, we ask that parent inform us.

Where children regularly do not complete homework, teachers will speak to parents about the reasons and make arrangements, if necessary, for them to complete it at other times (depending on the reasons).

While children may be asked to complete pieces of homework at playtime, this will not happen repeatedly without speaking with parents to establish reasons. We will not implement sanctions for children due to circumstances beyond their control.

As with all other school policies, our Homework Policy will at all times follow our Equal Opportunities and Race Equality policies. We will aim to provide activities which are accessible to all children relevant to their ability, skills and level of development. This may mean personalised homework for specific children.

How you can help

- Provide a quiet area where your child can work. It is helpful to switch off the TV and other devices to aid concentration.
- Offer your help and support to complete tasks.
- Expect older children to work independently but make it clear that you are there if needed.
- Encourage your child to complete any homework in good time. The setting of homework several days in advance enables children to develop skills in organising their time. Younger children will need your support in moving towards this.
- Take an interest in the homework and encourage your child to take a pride in the presentation of written tasks.
- Enjoy supporting your child in completing tasks from the Homework Menu.

4. Roles and Responsibilities

We will do our utmost to ensure that:

- homework is provided consistently and is well matched to the child's ability
- feedback is provided where appropriate
- tasks are interesting and promote engagement and enjoyment of learning
- we monitor time taken to complete homework and address parental concerns relating to homework
- tasks set are clear, unambiguous and require minimum resources
- training for parents to help support their child's learning will be provided where appropriate
- consistency of practice throughout school is monitored by the Leadership Team
- we support children in the completion of their homework where circumstances make this difficult
- we promote, welcome, recognise and value efforts and achievements from activities which take place outside of school.

We hope that parents / carers will:

- support the school in the implementation of this policy
- work as partners in the education of their children
- provide feedback about homework tasks where necessary.