

Eaves Primary School

'Excellence in Everything'



Home Learning Policy

October 2023

Status	Statutory
Responsible Governors' Committee	Standards and Pupil Outcomes
Date first approved by GB	June 2010
Responsible Person	Mrs N Kearney
Review Date	September 2024
Last Amended Date	September 2022

Aims

Home learning is a means of reinforcing or extending work covered during school time. It should further develop the education of our children and should be seen by the children as worthwhile and valuable and, therefore, worth the effort of completing.

Home learning should be able to be completed by all children regardless of their home background and should take regard of the school's equal opportunities policy.

Home learning is an opportunity for parents/carers to be further involved in their child's education and the school has an expectation that parents will take this opportunity and involve themselves in the work that their children have been set as home learning.

Home learning is a means of developing our pupils' independent learning skills and of encouraging individual responsibility.

Regular home learning will be a step in preparing our pupils for secondary transfer and will enable our pupils to develop long term strategies for their future needs.

Objectives

To provide regular/daily home learning for all pupils from Foundation Stage to Year 6.

To improve the quality of the learning experience offered to our children.

To provide home learning that supports and complements work covered during school time.

To provide for the individual needs of children.

To offer a further opportunity for retrieval of knowledge.

To assist parents/carers in becoming involved in the education of their children by providing a means of communication between home and school and where necessary providing advice for parents/carers on assisting their children at home.

Implementation

Early Years

In FS1, parents/carers are encouraged to share the school library book that their child brings home. Parents and carers are encouraged to share the story with their child, discussing the main events and characters. This aims to improve the child's speaking and listening skills and familiarity with a range of texts. Class teachers will inform parents about current learning through Seesaw so these skills can be reinforced at home.

In FS2, once a child starts the Read Write Inc Phonics programme, they will take home two books. One will be a Read Write Inc Sound Blending Book which helps children to practise the sounds and words they are learning in their group. They will also take home a library book to share with parents/carers to develop their storytelling and comprehension. Parents/carers are asked to share these books with their children and to make a comment in the home/school reading diary. It is expected that parents will spend 10 minutes reading with their child on a daily basis. As the year progresses, parents/carers are also asked to work on mathematics/investigative themes to support learning taking place in class. All of the activities are play based and should take approximately 10 minutes. These are recorded in the child's home learning book.

Class teachers will inform parents about current learning through Seesaw so these skills can be reinforced at home.

Key Stage 1

Key stage 1 children on the Read Write Inc programme will take home 2 reading books that are both linked to Read Write Inc. One is the copy of the book they are working on in school and another RWI Book Bag Book which reinforces the sounds that the children know. Children in Year 2 will also bring home a Book Banded Library book. Parents/carers are asked to read with their child for 10 - 15 minutes daily and to make a comment in the home/school reading book.

It is expected that parents/carers read these books with their child at least 4 times per week and record in their reading diary in order to be rewarded.

In addition to their daily reading, Key Stage 1 children will be given one piece of Mathematics, English or topic related home learning. This is mainly in the form of activities which require adult supervision. It will not always be formal "Home learning" as teachers may send home ideas for parents/carers to help their children at home in particular areas e.g. money, time, number bonds. Spellings will be set on EdShed. In Key Stage 1, time spent on home learning should be on average 1 hour per week, not including time spent on reading.

Key Stage 2

Key stage 2 children that are on the Read Write Inc programme will take home 2 reading books that are both linked to Read Write Inc. Children in KS2 will continue to take home a Book Banded Library book. Parents/carers of children in Years 3 and 4, are asked to read with their child for 20 minutes at least four times a week and to make a comment in the home/school reading book. Parents/carers of children in Years 5 and 6, are asked to read with their child for 25-30 minutes at least four times a week and to make a comment in the home/school reading book. It is expected that parents/carers read these books with their child at least 4 times per week and record in their reading diary in order to be rewarded.

In addition to their daily reading, Year 3 children will be given one piece of Mathematics, English or topic related home learning. Spellings will be set on EdShed.

In addition to their daily reading, Year 4 children will be given two pieces of Mathematics, English or topic related home learning. Spellings will be set on EdShed.

In addition to their daily reading, Year 5 children will be given two pieces of Mathematics, English or topic related home learning. Spellings will be set on EdShed.

In addition to their daily reading, Year 6 children will be given two pieces of Mathematics, English or topic related home learning. Spellings will be set on EdShed.

In Key Stage 2, time spent on home learning should be on average 1 hour per week, not including time spent on reading.

Home learning may vary from Mathematics and English work to researching a topic being covered in History. Some home learning may require adult supervision. Where children have access to a computer, they should be encouraged to use it to assist them in their home learning where this is appropriate.

Children and parents/carers will be made aware of when their home learning should be returned to school. (See appendix 1)

When Home learning is not returned

Parents/carers will be contacted by telephone or letter if lack of returned home learning is becoming an issue.

Appendix 1

When will Home learning be set?

Home learning for each class will be set on a designated day.

Class	Day set	Day returned
Years 1/2	Friday	Wednesday
Years 3/4	Friday	Wednesday
Years 5/6	Friday	Wednesday

The children are then expected to return that home learning on or before the return day the following week. (see above)

Appendix 2

SAMPLE LETTER SENT OUT AFTER TWO WEEKS OF MISSED HOME LEARNING.

Dear Parents/Carers,

Your child _____ has been set home learning by their class teacher.

Your child has failed to complete this home learning on a number of occasions.

Home learning is set on a Friday and its expected return day is Wednesday. This is for all classes.

Home learning is set for a number of reasons:- to provide opportunities for reinforcing or extending work previously covered in class; to develop our pupils' independent learning skills; to encourage individual responsibility and to prepare our pupils for their eventual secondary transfer. Most importantly, it is an opportunity for you as parents to get further involved in your children's education. At the moment other children are noticing that your child isn't completing home learning.

We value your co-operation in ensuring that your child completes their home learning as we have outlined in our Home-School agreement. If you need to discuss your child's home learning, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher.

Yours sincerely,

N. Kearney
(Head Teacher)

Appendix 3

HOME LEARNING TIMETABLE

FOUNDATION STAGE 1

Library books are available for families on a weekly basis.

Topic related learning tasks as the year progresses.

FOUNDATION STAGE 2

Pupils will be given key words and sounds to learn when appropriate.

Reading 10 minutes every night.

Library books are available for families on a weekly basis.

Topic related learning tasks as the year progresses.

YEARS 1 & 2

Reading 10 - 15 minutes at least 4 times a week - words sent home each week if needed.

A piece of English or Mathematics work every Friday to be handed in by the following Wednesday.

Spellings (5 - 10 words) We use EdShed; all children have log-ins. Set on a Friday also.

YEAR 3

Reading 20 minutes at least 4 times a week.

Times table practice 5 minutes per night.

A piece of English or Mathematics work every Friday to be handed in by the following Wednesday.

Spellings (5 - 10 words) We use EdShed; all children have log-ins. Set on a Friday also.

Occasional research in other subjects may be given, such as History, Science, RE and Geography.

YEARS 4, 5 & 6

Reading for at least 20 - 30 minutes at least 4 times a week.

Times table practice for at least 5 minutes per night.

A piece of English and Mathematics work every Friday to be handed in by the following Wednesday.

Spellings (5 - 10 words) We use EdShed; all children have log-ins. Set on a Friday also.

Occasional research in other subjects may be given, such as History, Science, RE and Geography.

Some children may need specific reinforcement with a particular area of learning and may be given short tasks to complete for the following day.



Appendix 4

Letter to parents, September 2022

Eaves Primary School

Eaves Lane, St Helens,
Merseyside, WA9 3UB
Telephone: 01744 812700
Email: eaves@sthelens.org.uk
Head Teacher: Mrs N J Kearney

Monday 5th September

2022

Dear Parents/ Carers,

The children will start to bring home reading books once again this week. Reading is the gateway to so many aspects of learning in school as it helps your child to access work independently in many subjects. It is important that your child has the opportunity to practice not only word reading but also to read with fluency, expression and with knowledge of what is happening in the story.

When your child starts the Read Write Inc Phonics Programme, they will bring home two books. One will be a Read Write Inc Sound Blending Book which helps your child to practise the sounds and words they are learning in their group. They will also bring home a Library Book to share with you to develop their storytelling and comprehension.

As your child moves through the Read Write Inc Phonics programme, they will bring home 2 reading books both linked to Read Write Inc. One is the copy of the book they are working on in school and another RWI Book Bag Book which reinforces the sounds that the children know.

It is really important that you read these books with your child at least 4 times per week. We know that for adults the books are repetitive but for the children this is vital practise so please keep it interesting and fun! Please sign/ date/ write a comment each time you read with your child at home.

For those children who are no longer on the Read Write Inc Phonics programme, they will bring home a Book Banded Library book. Your child will have already completed an Accelerated Reader assessment in school to ascertain your child's Book Band so that they are reading at an accurate level. Your child will also read this book daily in class so it needs to be in school everyday. Your child will make an independent choice about the book they choose with adult guidance so that they read broadly! Even though your child will now be a fluent reader, it is still so important that you listen to them read outloud

regularly to check understanding. Please do this at least 4 times per week and sign/ date/ write a comment in their reading diary.

Please send your child's books into school every day with their reading diary. Reading diaries will be checked weekly on a Monday. Those children who have read at least 4 times each week will be rewarded at the end of the half term.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs H Jennings
Deputy Headteacher