

Athelstan Primary School Home Learning Policy

By signing up to the Department for Education's staff wellbeing charter, we are committed to prioritising staff's wellbeing. Therefore, we aim to develop a long-term strategy to improve all of our staff's wellbeing. As a result, we regularly review all our policies to ensure we drive down any unnecessary workload.

At Athelstan, we use home learning to:

- Promote communication between home and school
- Develop an effective partnership between school and parents/carers
- Consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding
- Make use of resources for learning at home
- Make children aware that school is only part of the life-long learning process and therefore to extend school learning
- Motivate pupils and encourage independence
- Encourage the involvement of parents and carers in their child's learning journey

Learning Logs in Reception and Y1

Home learning is primarily based around the use of Learning Logs, which are a great way to inform parents and carers about the week's learning and to consolidate and extend this at home. Children can be creative and demonstrate what they know in their own special way and we actively encourage parents and carers to get involved. After the autumn half-term break, Learning Logs are sent home every Thursday and are handed in on the following Tuesday.

Pupils in Reception also have a 'My Speed Sounds' Book to help them with their Read Write Inc Phonics. These contain each of the Set 1 sounds; they show how the letter is formed, the phrase that we use to teach the children how to do this and the corresponding picture which helps them remember the sound that the letter makes.

Reading at Home

Regular reading has always been, and continues to be, vital for children's progress in every curriculum subject. We encourage all children at Athelstan to read to their parents/carers, or if they are fluent readers, to read on their own every day. We understand the importance of comprehension when reading, and although we encourage pupils to practise reading in English at home, we also promote the discussion of these texts in their first language if appropriate, as well as in English.

Parents and carers should sign their child's Reading Record to indicate that they have read with their child; reading sessions may take place more than once each day if children are very keen readers. After ten reading sessions are recorded, children celebrate their reading success and are awarded stickers on a chart.

In Reception and Y1, the children are given a picture book to take home each week. This is for parents to 'share' with their child. Children accessing Read Write Inc Phonics at school (Reception, Year 1 and some pupils in Year 2) are able to choose a Read Write Inc Book Bag Book twice weekly to take home; these books only contain words with the sounds that the children have already learnt. An adult in school will listen to each child read their book at least once a week so children are expected to bring it to school in their book bag every day. Pupils are also free to take additional books if they wish but the expectation is that they read their Book Bag Book together two or three times.

Pupils who have completed Read Write Inc Phonics move on to choose their reading book weekly from the coloured Oxford book bands. Their progress is checked every half term so that they are able to move on to more challenging book bands when they are ready. Children are also encouraged to freely choose

additional reading books that interest them. Once children have progressed to read fluently at a level beyond the banded books, they have free choice of reading books.

Tapestry

Pupils in Reception, Year 1 and some pupils in Year 2 who are following the Read Write Inc Phonics programme receive weekly updates on the Tapestry app. This includes information about the sounds that have been taught, links to videos on the Parent Portal for word reading, and games that can be watched and played at home to practise Fred Talk (blending sounds).

Spellings

Pupils in Reception, Year 1 and some pupils in Year 2 who are following the Read Write Inc Phonics programme are tested regularly each day as part of these lessons. Pupils in Reception and Year 1 do not bring spellings home to learn.

Pupils in Year 2 to Year 6, who have completed Read Write Inc Phonics, use the Emile Spelling Programme. Each unit lasts two weeks, at the end of which pupils take a spelling test. Children in Year 2 to Year 5 will bring home a list of spelling words every fortnight. Year 6 pupils have a new set of words weekly.

Times Tables

Pupils in Year 2 to Year 6 are expected to learn their times tables as follows:

Year 2 – 10, 2 & 5

Year 3 – as above plus 3, 4, 8

Year 4 – as above plus 6, 7, 9, 11 & 12

Year 5/Year 6 – all

All pupils in Year 2 to Year 6 have a login for Times Table Rock Stars and are expected to practise their times tables using this online programme.

Numbots

Pupils from Year 1 have online access to Numbots. All pupils from KS1 are expected to practise their addition and subtraction using this online programme.

Need 2 Knows (N2Ks)

Each half term, N2Ks are published on the school website for parents to access. In Reception, there is one N2K which covers the different areas of learning. All other year groups have an N2K for the following subjects: science, history/geography, art/D&T, PE, computing, music, RE, RSHE and Spanish. There is also a 'Reading Matters' N2K for all pupils across school. Each N2K sets out key concepts, vocabulary, key questions and key skills which will be covered throughout the topic. At the end of each half term, pupils do a N2K quiz in science, history and geography.

Additional Home Learning

In addition to the above, some year groups may also give out additional home learning, such as in Year 6 in preparation for the SATs.

For maths, all pupils in Year 1 to Year 6 will receive additional home learning after the completion of each unit of maths. Each unit varies in length, but there will be approximately three to four pieces of maths homework a term. This is designed to consolidate learning that has taken place in school. Class teachers will expect these to be returned where they will be valued.

We do understand that all children's needs are different and that some children may require an individualised plan of home learning. We are always here to listen and to help with children's learning.

We would actively encourage parents and carers to communicate any concerns or difficulties that they or their children may be experiencing relating to home learning.

Year Group	Daily Reading	Spellings	Times Table Rockstars	Numbots	Need 2 Knows	Other
Reception	10 mins				✓	Learning Logs Set 1 Sound Books
Y1	10 mins			✓	✓	Learning Logs, Maths
Y2	10-15 mins	✓	✓	✓	✓	Maths
Y3	10-15 mins	✓	✓		✓	Maths
Y4	15-20 mins	✓	✓		✓	Times Tables, Maths
Y5	15-20 mins	✓	✓		✓	Maths
Y6	15-20 mins	✓	✓		✓	Maths, SATs prep

Remote Learning

Our chosen platform for remote learning is Google Classroom. This will be used in the event of any school closures. There is a dedicated page on our school website, located under the 'Children' tab, to help pupils access their remote learning. A guide for parents and carers about remote learning is also included on this page.

Please refer to our additional policy for Remote Education.

No Internet Access

Pupils without internet access and/or suitable devices will receive hard copies of learning materials. These will be broadly in line with those set on Google Classroom, wherever possible.

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James Thompson