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Tudor School Home Learning Policy

Philosophy

Home Learning is intended to be an enjoyable and family friendly experience that is relevant to work within school and will extend or consolidate previous learning and key skills. It helps parents and carers to know how well their children are doing in school and what they are learning about and will include a wide range of activities. Through Home Learning we hope to inspire and motivate our pupils in their learning and we hope they will acquire lifelong learning skills which will prepare them for successful secondary education and future working lives. However, we also recognise the vital role of free play, social time and other activities in a child's development so we ensure the level of Home Learning set and the timescale given to achieve the tasks is realistic for busy families who participate in other activities and to allow children time to play.

Our Aims

- To help children achieve
- To encourage partnership between home and school to support children's learning
- To provide educational experiences not easily possible at school
- To cover a broad range of the curriculum
- To make Home Learning relevant and meaningful for the child and linked to work done at school
- To give quality time to personal interests and to develop the skills of active learning e.g research
- To encourage older children to develop the confidence, self discipline and motivation needed to study independently and prepare them for the next phase of education

Types of Home Learning

Reading

At Tudor we want children to develop a love of reading and we do this by encouraging them to choose books which are of interest to them.

During the foundation and KS1 years teachers provide advice and support for parents and carers on how to help their child with reading. Once children are independent readers they may read quietly to themselves.

The school library is open to children during the school day and after school. Parents /carers are encouraged to change books with their children in the school library after school. All children are given a reading diary which needs to be completed and signed by an adult at least three times a week.

Other Home Learning

We know that children learn best if they are motivated and interested, this extends to the Home Learning we provide.

There are some activities that will be carried out on a weekly basis. This will include reading at home and may also include: learning phonics, learning spellings, learning number bonds or times tables.

Teachers may also set a further tasks or activities which may include:

- Puzzles and challenges to promote thinking skills
- Designing and / or making projects including cooking or other activities that require closer supervision than we can provide in school
- Extension activities to activities in class e.g looking for shapes in the children's play area
- Research for a topic using for example books, computers or interviews with relatives
- Planning or completing a piece of extended writing
- Revision or other preparation for tests and assessments
- Practice of skills taught previously in class
- Extending real life experiences, for example; trips to the park, museums etc.

Class teachers will ensure parents and carers are aware of the support required and how much time children should be spending on their Home Learning, through the use of a home school agreement, sent at the beginning of each year (see appendix 1) If however, a child is spending excessive or minimal amounts of time on their Home Learning due to different work rates parents and carers should let the class teacher know.

Participation in Home Learning Activities

We seek to encourage children in all aspects of their learning and therefore completion of Home Learning, within the time set, returning it to school, with an indication that the parent and carers have seen and engaged with the Home Learning, is strongly encouraged. The school library is open twice each week at lunch time and three times each week after school in order for children to be able to use the resources including the computers and internet to assist their Home Learning tasks and pursue other interests.

We recognise and understand that there are times in which Home Learning cannot be completed and returned on time. On these occasions we encourage parents and carers to speak to the class teacher, however, if there is no explanation from a parent or carer then time will be given during the school day for children to catch up and complete their Home Learning (or a similar activity). Children who consistently do not do their Home Learning will be disadvantaged and therefore, to try and resolve issues, parents/carers will be asked to meet with the class teacher.

Role of the Class Teacher

- At the beginning of each year send home a home/school agreement for parents / carers to sign and return
- To provide an explanation of the Home Learning tasks to parents/carers and give guidance of how they might assist their child. This may be done by a note with the work or in a diary, at parent/carer meetings, or at the requests of individual parents/carers
- To set up regular Home Learning in an easily followed routine
- To ensure Home Learning is purposeful
- To reward and praise children who regularly complete Home Learning tasks
- To mark Home Learning and give feedback to pupils (and parents/carers, when appropriate e.g a task that has required their support)
- To support children who do not hand in Home Learning, to ensure they have an opportunity to complete it and if necessary meet with parents/carers to support any issues arising

Role of the Headteacher and Governing Body

- To monitor the implementation of the policy
- To meet with parent/carers when necessary
- Inform new parents /carers to the school so that all are aware of what the Home Learning policy entails

Role of Parents/Carers

- To read, sign and return the home school agreement sent at the beginning of the year
- Support their children in carrying out their Home Learning becoming actively involved when necessary
- To provide a suitable place for their child to carry out their Home Learning
- To support their children with their reading, including supporting them to change their book and signing their reading diary
- To sign their Home Learning diary (if required by the class teacher)

Equal Opportunities

The school is committed to equality of education in all aspects of school life. Our aim is to offer all our pupils Home Learning that is relevant and motivating, regardless of their needs, abilities, gender, disability, ethnicity, social, cultural or religious background.

Written: February 2015