

HOMEWORK POLICY



VANTAGE ACADEMY TRUST

Date approved:

*Date for revision:

Responsibility: Directors

Approved by the Directors

Signature of Chair _____

*subject to any relevant changes in legislation or other appropriate guidelines



The Governors and staff of St James CE Primary School believe that homework is an important aspect of a child's education. It encourages children to realise that learning can take place outside the classroom and promotes independent learning, thus encouraging the child to take greater responsibility for their progress. Homework allows parents, carers and the school, to work in partnership for the benefit of their child.

1. AIMS

Homework is encouraged throughout the school. To be most effective parents, carers, staff and the children, need to understand its purpose.

- It reinforces skills which have been taught in school and gives children the opportunity to practise what they have learnt.
- It encourages self-discipline as the children take responsibility for their learning.
- It promotes independent learning.
- It provides teachers with the opportunity to support and extend individual children.
- It sets standards for life and children become accustomed to working at home, preparing them for secondary school.
- It encourages children to share their learning with parents and carers.
- It encourages parents and carers to become involved with their children's learning.

2. HOMEWORK

Children will be asked to complete the following weekly:

- Reading
- Times tables
- Spellings

In addition to weekly tasks children will be asked to complete half termly International Primary Curriculum (IPC) learning logs.

READING

Reading is a vital aspect of literacy and develops not only reading skills but develops language, vocabulary and spelling. Daily reading is encouraged and children will have 1 -2 books each week to read at home with parents/carers. Parents/carers are encouraged to sign the home diary, indicating that they have read with their child. In addition to books, every child will have an individual log in for Bug Club, an on-line resource where children can read a wide range of fiction and non-fiction books and also complete reading activities and achieving rewards for tasks completed.

TIMES TABLES

Thorough knowledge of times tables is fundamental to mathematical development. At St James we have a bronze, silver and gold award for times tables knowledge. To attain bronze children must be able to recite a given times table in order, to attain silver they must be able to answer mixed tables questions and for gold they must also know the related division facts. They need to be able to respond speedily to times table questions with little or no hesitation.

Children will be given weekly times tables sheets for practice. They will move onto the next level once secure. By the end of year 2 children should know 2, 10 and 5 times tables. At the end of year 4 they should also know all tables up until 12 times table. Children in year 5 & 6 will also be given times tables homework if their knowledge is not yet secure.

SPELLINGS

Children will receive weekly word lists to develop their spelling ability. Children be tested weekly in school on those spellings.

IPC LEARNING LOGS

IPC is a creative curriculum that we use to teach the subjects of history, geography, art, ICT, design and technology, music, international mindedness and PE.

As part of their learning all children will have a home learning log. This is to allow children to complete project work at home. It is expected that all children will complete 'some' learning in their learning log each half term. There is no set amount of work to be completed.

At the start of a new IPC unit of work, a front sheet is glued into the Learning Log with a list of suggested activities. These activities will be shared with all the children in class so they understand what they may do at home. We encourage the children to present their work in a variety of ways: writing, diagrams, posters, models, pictures etc.

At the end of the unit the children will be asked to bring in their Learning Logs and share them with the rest of the class. Therefore, it is important that your child has at least one piece of work in their Learning Log to share.

In addition to the above class teachers may give ad hoc homework to either individual children or whole class where further practise will enhance their learning.

3. RESPONSIBILITIES

Children: It is our expectation that homework will be completed carefully and on time. Homework is given out on a Friday.

Parents: It is our expectation that parents will support children with their homework. In particular to ensure that they read daily with their child.

Teachers: It is our expectation that teachers will:

- set weekly homework
- monitor progress of home learning through weekly times tables and spelling tests
- report homework back to parents through Assertive mentoring reports
- check homework and clear up misconceptions

4. INCLUSION

All children will have access to homework that is relevant to their current stage of learning. Homework will be differentiated to provide the appropriate challenge for each pupil. All children are provided with equal access to homework. We aim to provide suitable learning opportunities regardless of gender, ethnicity or home background.