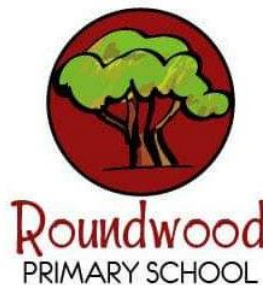


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Headteacher: Mrs L. Handley

11th September 2023

Roundwood Homework Approach (2023-2024)

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you once again to the many parents and carers and pupils who participated in our Homework Review during the previous academic year. Following on from the parent and pupil surveys, I also conducted a review of current research on homework. This has contributed to our Homework Policy for the academic year 2023-2024.

Research Summary

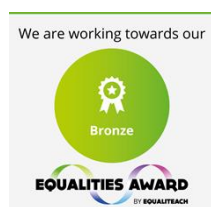
- Homework has a positive impact on progress. Children who had access to homework made an additional 3 to 5 months of extra progress compared to children who did not. Therefore, we feel this is an important tool in helping children to maximise the progress they make.
- Homework that is linked to classwork tends to be more effective, particularly when linked with high quality feedback from teachers. Therefore, our homework will focus on current areas of learning in English and Maths and also across the curriculum, through our 'Dip and Do' activities.
- Homework involving collaboration between peers has greater impact than when working individually. We have taken this into account when planning our 'Dip and Do' activities.
- Homework involving digital technology appears to have a greater impact and therefore, we have chosen to continue to use Maths apps and a language app as part of our approach.
- Some pupils may not have a quiet space for home learning and this needs to be given consideration by schools. Therefore, we have planned a homework club to provide a quiet space to complete homework, if this is not possible at home.
- The purpose of homework needs to be clear to pupils. Therefore, we will ensure that all pupils understand the rationale for each homework and how this supports their learning.

Our Approach to Homework

You will receive a Homework Guide which explains the Homework Expectations for each year group and provides an explanation of each type of homework. We have taken into account the latest research on homework and how we can help children to 'know more and remember more' along with the views of parents and carers when updating our approach.

Reading

- Reading is a fundamental life skill and our aim is that all children are reading at the age appropriate level or higher.
- Children are taught the skills they need to read at school and then need as many opportunities to practice these skills at school and at home.



- As children become fluent readers the focus moves towards developing their understanding of what they read and so listening to them read and discussing the books they are reading is essential.

Maths

- We have decided to continue to use an app based programme within our Homework approach. This is based on evidence suggesting that making use of technology increases the progress children make.
- This year we have taken the decision to change the Maths App we will be subscribing to as a school. Many of you will be familiar with the Doodle App, which was a fantastic resource for us all during and following COVID, as it enabled us to develop personalised programmes for the children to follow and target any gaps in learning which occurred as a result of COVID, however, this is no longer necessary.
- Please see parent guides for our new Maths app here:
Numbots <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=24sqgVgwBOg>
Times Tables Rock Stars <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ZxZbRVvbYM>
- The most recent guidance on Maths, focuses on the children being able to fluently recall number facts. These underpin many areas of maths and we have seen the impact on progress and attainment for those children who have a strong understanding of number bonds and times table facts as they progress through the school. They are able to work faster and more efficiently when solving problems.

Dip and Do

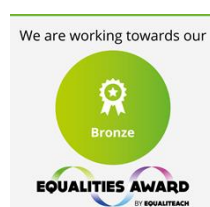
- We have decided to continue to include these in our Homework Approach as they provide a range of activities to reinforce and extend the children's learning at school.
- Children are given a range of activities to choose from, all link closely with their learning at school.
- They can be completed independently or with friends and can be shared with their class at anytime.

Homework Expectations

- Supporting children with their homework forms part of our 'Home School Agreement', which can be found on the school website:
[Roundwood Primary School - Home School Agreement](#)
- Our expectations are given on the Homework Guide which you will all receive with this letter.
- We completely understand that from time to time, due to various circumstances, you may find it difficult to support your child to complete all of their homework. Please come in and talk to your child's class teacher if this happens and we will be able to offer personalised advice on which areas to prioritise and if appropriate we may be able to offer additional time at school.
- However, whilst we endeavour to provide equal opportunities for all children to complete their homework and to make expected progress, as a school we are unable to provide the additional level of support to children who have not completed homework, that other children may be receiving at home and cannot be held accountable for the impact this may have on their attainment and progress.

Support for Families

- We have taken on board the feedback parents have given and hope that these strategies alleviate some of the challenges faced by some parents.
- All children from Year 1 to Year 6 will have a Homework Book. Each half term we will add the 'Dip and Do' and Spellings for that half term. These will also continue to be uploaded to the school website for you to access at anytime.
- Maths App based homework can be completed anywhere and at any time of the day.



- Children can share 'Dip and Do' Homework at any stage during the half term in which it is set e.g. if they do some research on a current topic this can be shared at that time rather than waiting until the end of term.
- Resources will be available for children to borrow if needed. Please speak to your child's teacher if this is something you would find helpful.
- 'Dip and Do' homework does not have a specific deadline and can be shared with the class, whenever they complete it so that it is shared at the most relevant time to their learning.
- 'Dip and Do' homework can be shared in whatever format the children would like to use, whilst they will all have a homework book, there is no expectation that activities will be formally recorded in it.
- A Homework Club available for children who have been unable to complete their homework at home. This will be a place where they can work collaboratively with their peers or with an adult if they would like. Homework Clubs will be available at Lunchtime for children who wish to attend.

Parent Workshops

Following feedback we will hold Parent Workshops to explain to parents how we teach key skills to the children and how they can support the children's learning most effectively at home.

Workshops will include:

- Foundation Stage Phonics and early reading
- KS1 Phonics and Reading
- Mastering Number (FS & KS1)
- KS2 Mastering Times Tables & Calculation Strategies
- KS2 English – Reading and Writing

If you have any questions about this please speak to your child's class teacher.

Best wishes

Claire Kent
Senior Teacher
Roundwood Primary School

