



**NEWLAITHES JUNIOR SCHOOL**

**Homework Policy**

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# Homework Policy

**Agreed – November 2022**

**Next review - November 2025**

Learning at home is an essential part of a good education. Regular homework is important, since it gives pupils the opportunity to practise at home the tasks done in class, and helps them work towards improving important skills. It also encourages children to become **confident and independent** in their learning, which will help throughout their time throughout their education and later in adult life.

Homework activities are an important part of the home-school partnership. All children are expected to take part in a variety of homework tasks to enhance and support their work in class.

## **What research says**

The Education Endowment Fund reports that research into homework ([read here](#)) has mainly been carried out in relation to secondary schools. There is evidence to suggest schools that give homework perform better, but it is not clear that this is due to the homework itself. In addition, gains in relation to primary aged children are seen to be small. One benefit of homework is that it can help parents support their children in building positive attitudes towards their education, but it is our belief that this should be balanced with the needs of children to develop other interests and have time to rest.

Evidence suggests that short focused tasks that link directly to current learning - and on-going retrieval of prior learning linked to gains in long-term memory - are likely to be more effective than regular daily homework that lacks a specific purpose. Taking this into account, homework will follow the activities listed below.

## **Home Reading**

Helping children to read and developing 'reading for pleasure' is the single most important thing that parents can do to help with their children's education. Reading should be done every day. It is an excellent way to bring 'screen time' to a close and help settle children into a healthy, bedtime routine. Reading can also be linked to current school topics to support interest and understanding.

Reading Scheme Books: In Y3 children will receive a reading scheme book. These books build skills over time by introducing children to new sentence structures and vocabulary. Parents can worry that these books are not 'challenging', but the schemes are designed to develop language and grammatical structures. If parents feel that books are unsuitable, they should speak to their child's teacher. Generally, children should have scheme books until the end of Year 4, but it is not a 'race' to finish.

Library Books: Once an independent reader, children will progress from the scheme books to reading a school library book. This should be a book that interests them and is suited to their general level of reading. As these books may be more challenging, parents can share the reading or read to their children. A key thing here is that children understand new words and knowledge, so parents should discuss the content and meaning.

## **Maths Skills**

Fluency in maths skills (e.g. number bonds, times tables, telling the time) is another aspect that can have a big impact on children's learning. Scientific research has proven that the human brain has limited 'thinking space'; so storing basic facts in the long-term memory helps when working on difficult problems. We advise that children practise these basic skills until they know them 'by heart'.

## **Spellings**

Spellings will link to a weekly focus on a spelling rule or pattern, words from the National Curriculum 'word lists' and some subject-specific words linked to current topics.

## **Additional Tasks**

Where teachers see fit, they may suggest short activities that will develop learning from a lesson or pre-empt a forthcoming lesson. These will be added to the homework page as they occur to keep parents informed.

## **Weekly homework:**

It is expected that children will complete the following homework activities:

### Year 3

- Daily reading with an adult (reading record signed daily)
- Weekly Spellings
- Weekly times tables
- Weekly Literacy or Numeracy piece of homework – this may at times be linked to themes in other curricular areas.

### Year 4

- Daily reading with an adult (reading record signed daily)
- Weekly Spellings
- Weekly Times tables
- Weekly Literacy and Numeracy piece of homework – this may at times be linked to themes in other curricular areas.

### Year 5

- Daily reading with an adult (reading record signed daily)
- Weekly Spellings
- Weekly Times tables
- Weekly Literacy and Numeracy homework – this may at times be linked to themes in other curricular areas.

### Year 6

- Daily reading with an adult (reading record signed daily). For some Y6 children - independent reading. Parents do need to stay involved and regularly talk about the books their child is reading
- Weekly Spellings
- Weekly Times tables
- Weekly Literacy and Numeracy homework – this may at times be linked to themes in other curricular areas.

During the year additional homework in the form of research and projects may be set in order to support teaching and learning in class.

**How we expect parents to support their child:**

- provide somewhere peaceful for your child to work without the distractions of television, other family members and pets
- provide a suitable place, equipped with a comfortable chair, clear table space, good light
- provide encouragement and support to your child when they require it
- support the school in explaining to your child that homework is valued and aids learning
- encourage and praise your child when homework is completed
- be actively involved in the homework of your child.

**Pupils are expected to:**

- make full use of all the opportunities they are presented with
- tackle home tasks promptly and with a positive attitude
- take pride in presentation and content
- be appropriately organised so that necessary books and equipment are not left at school or at home
- take responsibility for handing in the completed task on the agreed day.

**Action for those pupils who do not complete their homework:**

- Pupils who do not read (including having their reading record signed) will be kept in at playtimes/lunchtimes to read
- Pupils who have not learned their spellings or tables sufficiently will be asked to write them out or be retested at playtime/dinner time
- Pupils who do not complete their homework on time will be asked to complete the work at playtimes/lunchtimes
- Where children persist in not completing their homework the class teacher will speak to the child's parents/carers.