

MILL HILL PRIMARY ACADEMY



Homework Policy

Updated: September 2023

Rationale:

We believe that homework supports, extends and consolidates the learning covered in the classroom while supporting children to develop self-discipline, independence and the ability to take responsibility for their own learning.

This policy aims to:

- Raise achievement;
- Ensure a consistency of approach throughout the academy;
- Ensure teachers, parents and carers have a clear understanding about expectations of themselves and pupils.

The main purpose of homework is:

- to encourage pupils to develop the skill, confidence and motivation to study independently at home effectively;
- to consolidate and reinforce the skills and understanding developed at school;
- to extend school learning through activities such as additional reading and research;
- to develop and sustain the involvement of parents in the management of their child's learning and to keep them informed about the work and progress their child is achieving;
- to explore the wide range of resources for learning at home eg: internet, library, adult knowledge and newspapers;
- to maintain good channels of communication between home and school;
- to offer pupils the opportunity to extend their learning by including optional, additional challenges or open ended questions.

Homework at Mill Hill Primary – Key Principles.

- The amount and difficulty of homework is tailored according to the child's age and ability.
- Sufficient time is allowed for the completion of homework to allow for a healthy home/school work balance.
- A homework after-school club is available to support your child in completing some of their tasks.
- As the children progress through the school, the amount of homework may increase.
- Teachers incorporate homework into their weekly planning and ensure that the tasks are purposeful and aimed at developing and consolidating basic skills.
- High expectations for neat presentation are in place to ensure that children maintain a similar high standard of work at home as in school.

Homework Tasks

Reading

We believe that one of the most valuable homework activities is **regular reading**. Suggested reading times are 5-10 minutes in Reception increasing to at least 20 minutes by Years 5 & 6. There is an expectation that reading at home will happen regularly (4 times a week minimum). It is important for parents / carers to read with children and to discuss books, pictures and stories, even when they are in Year 6. Children's planners are to be **signed by parents / carers**, after hearing children read. Some children may be given individual reading targets depending on need.

Mill Hill Magic Homework

At Mill Hill Primary Academy, we offer a range of homework tasks, which earn the children points. They need to get a specific amount of points to show that they have met the homework expectations. Children are given their Mill Hill Magic Homework at the start of each half term. Our homework differs depending on the year group of the children e.g. Atom Prime homework set from Year 3 – Year 6. All children have the option of five creative activities complete and they must complete at least one each half term. Children can go above and beyond in their homework and this is recognised by certificates at the end of the half term.

Year 6

Children in Year 6 may have weekly homework linked directly to Maths, Reading and SPaG. This is to support them in the national assessments (SATs) that they will take at the end of the academic year.

Online Platforms

We offer a range of online platforms for your child to access, depending on their year band, to support their learning at home. Login details for these platforms can be found in your child's planner. These consist of Bug Club, Times Tables Rock Stars, Purple Mash and Atom Prime.

How you can help your child with their homework

Below is a list of ways that you as a parent can show your child that you value their homework and the time and effort spent completing it. The school will also provide clear and regular reminders of their expectation when it comes to homework. As a school we hope that you will find this guidance helpful in supporting your child fully with their homework.

You can show you value your child's homework by:

- ✓ providing a suitable place in which your child can do their homework, preferably with an adult to discuss, encourage and support;
- ✓ making it clear to your child that you value homework and support the school in explaining how it can help learning;
- ✓ encouraging your child and praising them when they have completed work set;
- ✓ signing and dating your child's completed homework to show that it is a true reflection of their best efforts;
- ✓ ensuring work is complete and returned to school on time;
- ✓ checking your child spends a suitable amount of time on homework;
- ✓ ensuring your child returns their homework book weekly (on a day given by your child's class teacher) to enable the class teacher to monitor and assess homework.

Additionally, you can support your child's development by:

- ✓ visits to libraries, museums etc.;
- ✓ cooking with them;
- ✓ taking your child swimming;
- ✓ playing games, e.g. board games, cards, ball games;
- ✓ watching informative TV programmes together;
- ✓ providing opportunities for craft activities, e.g. cutting, sticking, sewing, painting etc.;
- ✓ gardening and growing plants;
- ✓ using the internet to research something with your child (following guidelines for safe internet use);
- ✓ Attending any school workshops that may be on offer designed to enable Parents/Carers to support their child's learning at home;
- ✓ Talking to your child about schoolwork, their day, what they have been learning about and how they have been learning.

Remember:

Homework is about reinforcing, practising and confidence building, enthusing your child about undertaking homework and modelling the high value of homework to them is of key importance.

Make it fun!