



Russells Hall Primary School

Home Learning Policy

Home learning is an essential part of a great education. It not only reinforces classroom learning but it supports children in the development of the skills and attitudes they need to be successful lifelong learners. The individual attention a parent can give, if only for a few minutes, can help motivate, build confidence, raise self-esteem and support progress. A child can begin to understand the value his or her parent puts on education through how they engage with their learning at home.

We recognise the role of the parent/carer as the first educator and that this does not diminish once a child is at school. A working partnership between school and home enhances the educational development of the child. We consider that any parent that feels able to help their child at home as extremely worthwhile. We also recognise that regardless of age, children also need to play as this is not just a time to switch off from the day but also part of learning.

Aims:

- To develop effective partnerships between parents, carers, pupils and the schools in pursuit of our Russells Hall Values
- To extend school learning by improving the quality of learning experiences offered to children
- To ensure progression towards independence and individual responsibility
- To work in partnership with parents through regular communication, to ensure that learning is seen as a process that is not confined to the classroom alone.
- To encourage older children to develop the confidence and self-discipline needed for studying
- To maximise the opportunities that can be fostered through ICT links

Evidence shows that the best kind of home learning tasks for children are those that link closely to what has already been taught in school. At Russells Hall Primary School, children will be offered weekly opportunities to practise and reinforce skills or knowledge that they have already learnt as this helps to secure learning in their long-term memory.

Russells Hall Primary School values that are promoted through Home Learning:

Learning:

Home learning may be provided through online videos and activities that are inclusive and enable rapid classroom progress through observing, practising, and reflecting at home.

Understanding:

Home learning is an opportunity for parents to understand what their child is learning in school and to support them at home. Home learning set for children should not add anxiety or pressure to a child or family by the parent having to 'teach' their child new learning.

Success:

Home learning set for children should be repetition of learning they have already

experienced. Children should be able to demonstrate their understanding of what they have learned in school and feel success when completing home learning.

Ambition:

Home learning should give children an opportunity to demonstrate passion for what they have learned at school. Home learning tasks may also offer opportunities to ignite a passion in children to explore and extend their own thinking, ideas and knowledge using resources, such as libraries, reference materials and computer websites.

Hope:

Home learning should develop trust, self-confidence and independence in children so that they work creatively to achieve their best and become the best that they can be.

Leadership:

Home learning should enable children to assume responsibility for its completion as through this, they will learn to be accountable for their actions, manage time and make decisions in later life.

Excellence:

Home learning helps children secure their understanding of key concepts across the curriculum, which when done regularly, helps children achieve mastery in skills and knowledge. Educational interaction between parents and children can have a significant impact on a child's language, literacy and mathematical development.

The Difficulty Level of Home Learning

Generally home learning will meet the expectations for the child's year group. The teachers will set home learning tasks based on what children have been learning about in class as an opportunity to overlearn skills and knowledge already taught. Some children may have secured the learning in class already, so home learning tasks will give them an opportunity to develop fluency in those particular areas, which is a key part of achieving mastery. Some children may not have secured the learning from class, so having another opportunity to practice will help them secure their understanding.

Home learning tasks are designed so that children should be able to complete them independently, as they would have already experienced the content within school. However younger children may require additional adult guidance depending on their level of independence.

If possible, parents are encouraged to watch any of the modelling and demonstration of home learning tasks so they can better understand how their child is being taught. If a parent has any questions or problems, they can contact their child's class teacher through Tapestry.

Reading

At Russells Hall, we believe that creating a culture of reading is a vital tool in ensuring our children are given the best life chances. Cultivating readers with a passion for a wide range of materials, will ensure that children's love of reading will extend far beyond the classroom and allow them to build on their skills independently through a real curiosity and thirst for knowledge. Children will have two reading books which they can take home: a book matched to their instructional level (we call this their '*learn to read*' book) to help them progress as a reader and a book of their choice from one of our libraries or reading corners (we call this their '*love to read*' book').

Home Learning Platforms

At Russells Hall Primary School, we value the impact digital technology can have in supporting learning at home. Most of our home learning is set through our various online portals which are set up for your child in school and their login credentials are sent home with them. The main online platforms we use are:

- - Tapestry
- - Century Tech

We also provide children logins for additional learning games on:

- - Reading Plus
- - Times Table Rock Stars
- - Numbots
- - Freckle

Home Learning Expectations

We are aware that home learning needs to be different depending on the age and stage of each child. Below you can see how we have tailored the home learning to match the needs of children in Years R-2, 3-4 and 5-6.

Year R Home Learning Expectations:

Year R children will start the year reading their phonics letters, before moving on to phonics books and common exception words. The class teacher will inform parents when their child is ready to move on to the next phase of reading home learning.

- In Year R, it is essential to read each day, for at least 5 days a week, either having their book read to them by an adult or, when they have a phonics book, practising **reading** their phonics book.
- **Common exception words** are words in the English language that don't follow a spelling rule or pattern. Year R have a list of 'common exception words' which every child should know how to read and spell by the end of the school year. Children will be sent home with a sheet containing the common exception words. Children will learn a selection of words a week with parents at home and when parents feel confident that the child can read and spell the words they return that page to their class teacher. These will also be posted on Tapestry.
- A **vocabulary** activity will also be set for parents to practice with their child. This will be posted on Tapestry. Exploring vocabulary with young children is vital in building their understanding of the world.
- Children will also be encouraged to complete a short **maths** activity and a **topic** based activity each week. These will be posted on Tapestry.

Year 1 and 2 Home Learning Expectations

- **Reading** at home is the most important thing a child can do to support their learning in school. All children are expected to spend at least 10 minutes each day, for at least 5 days a week, practicing reading their 'learn to read' book. This will be the child's phonics book in most cases but some children may be reading an Accelerated Reader which is carefully selected to help children develop their reading skills. The child's Reading Record should be filled in and signed by parents and brought back with the book.
- **Common exception words** are words in the English language that don't follow a spelling rule or pattern. Both Year 1 and Year 2 have a list of 'common exception words' which every child should know how to read and spell by the end of the school year. Children will be sent home with a sheet containing the common exception words. Children will learn a selection of words a week with parents at home and when parents feel confident that the child can read and spell the words they return that page to their class teacher. These will also be posted on Tapestry.
- A **mathematics** task will be set each week through Tapestry which will focus on overlearning what the children have been looking at in class with their teacher. This gives the children an opportunity to secure their learning and it gives parents an insight into what the teacher is teaching their child.

Please note, we do not send out spelling lists to learn for weekly spelling tests, apart from the list of common exception words – instead, spelling rules are taught as part of our Writing lessons in school.

This is the only home learning that is expected of Year 1 and Year 2 children to complete. However, there are **non-compulsory** additional fluency games which the school subscribe to, which the children may choose to explore in their own time. These activities do not replace the set home learning from the teachers. The additional online activities which the school subscribe to are:

- - Times Tables Rock Stars
- - Numbots
- - Freckle

Year 3 and 4 Home Learning Expectations:

- **Reading** at home is the most important thing a child can do to support their learning in school. All children are expected to spend at least 15 minutes each day, for at least 5 days a week. Children will bring home a book, which matches their current level, from our Accelerated Reader library. Once they have read their book, they will complete a quiz back in class and the book can then be changed. The child's Reading Record should be filled in and signed by parents and brought back with the book.
- They will also be set a **reading nugget** on Century Tech which will be assigned via Tapestry. This will focus on overlearning what the children have been exploring in class with their teacher.
- A **mathematics** nugget will be set each week on Century, through Tapestry, which will focus on overlearning what the children have been exploring in class with their

teacher. This gives the children an opportunity to secure their learning and it gives parents an insight into what the teacher is teaching their child. We also encourage 5 minutes every day using TT Rock Stars. Learning times tables is really important as they're the building blocks of maths: once your child has multiplications mastered, they can do anything!

- A **Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar** (SPAG) nugget will be set each week on Century, through Tapestry, which will focus on overlearning what the children have been exploring in class with their teacher. This gives the children an opportunity to secure their learning and it gives parents an insight into what the teacher is teaching their child.
- A **Science** nugget will be set each week on Century, through Tapestry, which will focus on overlearning what the children have been exploring in class with their teacher. This gives the children an opportunity to secure their learning and it gives parents an insight into what the teacher is teaching their child.

Please note, we do not send out spelling lists to learn for weekly spelling tests – instead, spelling rules are taught as part of our Writing lessons in school.

This is the only home learning that is expected of Year 3 and Year 4 children to complete. However, there are non-compulsory additional fluency games which the school subscribe to, which the children may choose to explore in their own time. These activities do not replace the set home learning from the teachers. The additional online activities which the school subscribe to are:

- - Times Tables Rock Stars
- - Numbots
- - Reading Plus
- - Freckle

Year 5 and 6 Home Learning Expectations:

- **Reading** at home is the most important thing a child can do to support their learning in school. All children are expected to spend at least 15 minutes each day, for at least 5 days a week. Children will bring home a book, which matches their current level. Once they have read their book, they will complete a quiz back in class and the book can then be changed. The child's Reading Record should be filled in and signed by parents and brought back with the book.
- They will also be set a **reading** nugget on Century Tech which will be assigned via Tapestry. This will focus on overlearning what the children have been exploring in class with their teacher.
- A **mathematics** nugget will be set each week on Century, through Tapestry, which will focus on overlearning what the children have been exploring in class with their teacher. This gives the children an opportunity to secure their learning and it gives parents an insight into what the teacher is teaching their child.
- A **Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar** (SPAG) nugget will be set each week on Century, through Tapestry, which will focus on overlearning what the children have been exploring in class with their teacher. This gives the children an opportunity to secure their learning and it gives parents an insight into what the teacher is teaching their child.

- A **Science** nugget will be set each week on Century, through Tapestry, which will focus on overlearning what the children have been exploring in class with their teacher. This gives the children an opportunity to secure their learning and it gives parents an insight into what the teacher is teaching their child.

Please note, we do not send out spelling lists to learn for weekly spelling tests – instead, spelling rules are taught as part of our Writing lessons in school.

This is the only home learning that is expected of Year 5 and Year 6 children to complete. However, there are **non-compulsory** additional fluency games which the school subscribe to, which the children may choose to explore in their own time. These activities do not replace the set home learning from the teachers. The additional online activities which the school subscribe to are:

- - Times Tables Rock Stars
- - Numbots
- - Reading Plus
- - Freckle

Rewards

Ideally children would complete home learning tasks because of the intrinsic motivation of knowing that it will improve their lives. However, we acknowledge that some children may need some support with this. Research shows that positive reinforcement is far more powerful than negative reinforcement, so each home learning task, which is completed, can earn each child points towards rewards.

Our incentivised reward system is in place to help encourage children to engage with home learning with the ultimate aim of building their intrinsic motivation. Our reward system gives children points for the work they complete, which gives children rewards at certain milestones:

If a child in Reception, Year 1 or 2 completes 10 minutes of reading a day, practises their common exception words and completes their Maths activity each week, they will receive a point. At 5 points, children will receive a Bronze Award. At 10 points, children will receive a Silver Award. At 15 points children will receive a Gold Award. When a child receives a Gold Award, they also receive a gold token to use at the reading book lucky dip station and they will also be celebrated in assemblies too.

If a child in Year 3,4,5 or 6 completes all 4 nuggets, plus their reading homework in a week, they will receive a point. At 5 points, children will receive a Bronze Award. At 10 points, children will receive a Silver Award. At 15 points children will receive a Gold Award. When a child receives a Gold Award, they also receive a gold token to use at the reading book lucky dip station and they will also be celebrated in assemblies too.

We do not believe that sanctions are an effective way for children to be encouraged to complete their home learning. Whilst it is essential that children do complete their home learning, those who may choose not to will not be sanctioned in school. Instead their teacher will look to work with the child and parents if necessary, to offer them encouragement and support. Additionally, it would be unfair to sanction those children who do not have

sufficient technology, or the support and encouragement at home to complete their home learning.