The Prince of Wales School



**Home Learning Policy**

Reviewed May 2016

**PHILOSOPHY**

The Prince of Wales School is fundamentally committed to the idea of education as a partnership between parents and school.

Parents are the first educators of their children and their role in their children's continuing education in the early years is vital.

Teachers at The Prince of Wales School are committed to welcoming parents into school and to sharing information about the curriculum and children's individual progress.

At The Prince of Wales School we believe that parents have the right to:

* a welcome at the school
* regular, honest, professional and accurate information about their child's progress
* ask questions about how we do things at The Prince of Wales School
* express concerns and worries to class teachers , TAs and the Head of school
* receive open and honest information about their child
* The promise and delivery of action on their concerns .
 We equally believe that parents have the responsibility to:
* support the school
* reinforce our high standards of behaviour and discipline
* support their children through talking to them, encouraging their child to join clubs and to take up hobbies and to develop sporting interests, spending quality time with them and by taking an interest in their work at school
* share books with their child, listen to their child reading or encourage their child to read on their own, on a regular (preferably daily) basis
* support their children in completing home learning activities through discussion, encouragement and positive attitudes
* inform the class teacher if they feel the given homework is too easy or too difficult.

Home Learning is an area which has taken over from Homework. We believe Home Learning is about capturing the interests of our children and giving them skills and a mixture of formats to present their findings into school. Home Learning makes up part of the current class learning, so it is discussed within teaching lessons, as well as being displayed prominently. Finally the Head of school will see special efforts of Home Learning and present certificates for carrying out. In the classroom all efforts of Home Learning receive a class certificate.

Other aspects noted within this Home Learning policy include parts of the Home School agreement which are expectations from all parents in supporting their children in areas such as reading and spelling.

**CORE STATEMENT**

**Teachers will encourage children to carry on their learning at home and outside of school.**

**It is the parents' responsibility to put this into effect.**

**By putting undue and inappropriate pressure on to young children to do work at home, it is possible to do significant and long-term damage and this issue needs to be sensitively handled.**

**DETAILS OF HOME LEARNING GIVEN:**

Through our Pre-School:

* On a weekly basis every child has the opportunity to take home a library book, puzzle or game.
* A book related to the topic is sent home via groups of children so they read it and then pass it on to the next family. The writing down of which elements have been enjoyed is encouraged by family members and older siblings.
* The Pre-school uses the blog their blog to communicate, i.e. asking children to bring in items to help within a topic - a shape picture, picture of them cooking at home, finding numbers and cutting out from magazines.
* ‘WOWS’ – The Pre-school provides a template to fill out special moments which we share and then put into the child’s learning journeys (development book).
* During each school break for the holidays an aspect of Home Learning is sent home and families are encouraged to participate.
* The blog is also used to explain aspects such as work on feelings and thinking about ourselves as learners. This is placed here to encourage parents to ask children about the discussion had in school.

Reception and Year 1:

(We) state clear expectations that children should be:

* Sharing books
* Listening to an adult read
* Using a ‘School Group Reading’ book to read to parents regularly, preferably on a daily basis.
* Your child will bring home one group reading book as well as individual books from the library (fiction) and also non-fiction books too.
* Yr 1 – spellings will begin to come home after the first half term of autumn. Please see Yr 1 teacher and blog for help and guidance on how to learn spellings these at home using fun and engaging activities.
* Home Learning activities may be sent out via letter and blog at the end of term or occasionally on a Friday so children can enquire about a new aspect of learning ready for the new term. In Reception very small pieces of Home Learning are sent out regularly, these are for you to choose to complete with your child. You will find these on the class blog as supporting ideas to enhance your child’s learning.

It is our genuine feeling that support from parents is FUNDAMENTAL in developing children’s interest and enjoyment of books and hence their level of attainment in reading. Sharing books and reading to children is every bit as useful at this stage to children’s reading as other activities.

Young children who are read to and read regularly **do ‘learn to read’.**

**Other ‘Home Learning’ which can support your child’s learning includes:**

* Talking regularly to children. What was achieved today at school, enjoying doing at home, placing thoughts and ideas in order, sequencing thoughts.
* Read a story a day – discuss the story, talk about the pictures, predict what might happen next, explain to your child any unclear events in the story.
* Nursery rhymes – learn some with your child, act them out!
* Your child reading to you from a book with a repetitive element in it, which they can rehearse and then read/perform to you.
* Sing! Children love to sing, again songs like nursery rhymes hold familiar repetitive structures, or choruses easy to learn (e.g. ten green bottles, old MacDonald, the wheels on the bus)
* Plenty of opportunities for drawing, colouring and painting. Use of media such as; chalk, pastels, paints, crayons, pencils, felt tips,
* Games – taking turns, learning simple rules, such as snakes and ladders, connect 4, draughts, simple dice games…
* Finding meaningful context for counting – climbing stairs, laying the table, at the supermarket, when other occasions arise
* Exercise – plenty of running around, visit a park, play in the sand/ pits, climbing frames, chasing balls, swings, lots of fun to do with family too!
* Small toys – role play, allowing children to act out feelings through play
* There are many excellent activities on the internet and packaged as APPS nowadays, e.g. Phonics play, Learning Zone, BBC, etc. Children are taught from very early age in our school how to stay safe when using the internet. If you wish to know more than please read through our E safety policy on our website
* Ensure the atmosphere is calm and relaxed when children are preparing to settle to carry out some Home Learning. Try different times of the day to select the best times to encourage your child to carry out Home Learning. Do not stick rigidly to times if your child is tired or not in the right frame of mind, this will just counter act what you are trying to instill, which is a positive approach to Home learning.
* Plan in some quiet/ still time too, we all need to recharge our batteries!

Year 2

Please continue to read with your child as regularly as possible. Ten minutes a day makes a huge difference to your child’s level of achievement. Generally, children of this age are able to access longer plots and concentration so maybe choose a family book where the adults read (or take it in turns), yet discussions are had over characters and what might happen next?

We state clear expectations that children should be:

* Visiting the library (school and local) regularly, to experience the enjoyment of choosing and sharing books.
* Sharing books, listening to an adult read
* ‘School Group Reading’ book to read to parents regularly, preferably on a daily basis. Your child will bring home one group reading book as well as an individual book from the library (fiction) and also non-fiction books too.
* Weekly spellings will come home relative to your child’s ability, this will occur throughout the year. Your child may have a preferred way of learning these. At school we do provide each child with a ‘Look, cover and then write the word’ sheet which if filled in your child will gain a Super Hero point in class. There are many easy, fun and engaging ways to learn spellings. Please see Yr 2 teacher and blog for guidance to how to learn these at home.
* Logging onto Mathletics and Reading eggs (follow Pupil Links on our website).
* Home Learning activities may be sent out via letter and blog at end of term or occasionally on a Friday so children can enquire about a new aspect of learning ready for the new term. This will be given out in response to the children’s interest and enthusiasm. These will always have a time period of at least one week, and at Yr 2 it is up to the child whether they want to take part in the Home learning challenge, it is not compulsory.

**Other ‘Home Learning’ which can support your child’s learning includes:**

* Family activities which involve turn taking, following rules and having strategic plans – draughts, chess, board games, cards,
* Host of ICT activities which can help support learning – our School website – Pupil links will take them to Mathletics and Reading Eggs as well as specific Yr group links selected to support learning.
* Ensure the atmosphere is calm and relaxed when children are preparing to settle to carry out some Home Learning. Try different times of the day to select the best times to encourage your child to carry out Home Learning. Do not stick rigidly to times if your child is tired or not in the right frame of mind, this will just counter act what you are trying to instill, which is a positive approach to Home learning.
* Plan in some quiet/ still time too, we all need to recharge our batteries!

When tackling a piece of Home Learning which is topic based, try to discuss with your child their learning preferences. How would they like to tackle this and produce it? This will then develop a child’s natural interest, curiosity and talent. For example, make up a picture/poster, write a poem or story, create a short film, scrapbook of a trip, etc.

Year 3 and 4

Continue to read with your child as regularly as possible. Ten minutes a day makes a huge difference to your child’s level of achievement. Generally children of this age are able to access longer plots and concentration. They may be into a particular genre or author. Nurture these moments in reading, find other authors for them, share a book together, enjoy film adaptations of the text, and discuss similarities and differences. Nonfiction is also as important; news, science, magazines, reference books, these are all fantastic ways to absorb new information and facts and learn about concepts and beliefs.

We state clear expectations that children should be:

* Visiting the library (school and local) regularly, to experience the enjoyment of choosing and sharing books.
* Daily individual reading practice, either to parents or independently
* ‘School Group Reading’ book to read to parents regularly, preferably on a daily basis. Your child will bring home one group reading book as well as an individual book from the library (fiction) and also non-fiction books too.
* Group Reading activity – your child will be sent home regularly with an activity which fits their current book.
* Weekly spellings will come home relative to your child’s ability, this will occur throughout the year. There are many easy, fun and engaging ways to learn spellings. Please see Yr 3 and 4 teacher and blog for guidance to how to learn these at home.
* Weekly Maths task
* Logging onto Mathletics and Reading Eggs (follow Pupil links on our website).
* The completion of class based tasks as required
* Home Learning activities may be sent out via letter and blog at the end of term or occasionally on a Friday so children can enquire about a new aspect of learning ready for the new term. This will be given out in response to the children’s interest and enthusiasm. Your child can be creative in the way they wish to respond to this piece of Home Learning (writing up findings, producing a poster, making a 3D object, etc). The Home Learning will always have a time period of at least one week.

At The Prince of Wales school part of the Home/School agreement is that parents are responsible for helping their child in the completion of the task.

Likewise teachers are responsible for ensuring that parents know of our expectations and the days on which different activities are given out. Teachers will provide information through newsletters, use of regular blogs, Home learning policy and the parent Information sessions which are at the beginning of each term.

IF YOU HAVE ANY PERSONAL CONCERNS ABOUT THE BEST WAY TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILD AT HOME THEN PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE IN CONTACTING US AT SCHOOL AND WE WILL BE HAPPY TO ASSIST YOU.

THANK YOU FOR BEING PARTNERS IN YOUR CHILD’S EDUCATION