



GADE VALLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

HOMEWORK POLICY

SEPTEMBER 2025

Homework refers to tasks given to pupils by their teachers to be completed outside of usual lessons. Latest research indicates that:

- Parents can have a positive effect on homework completion and help children to develop effective learning habits.
- Short focused tasks or activities which relate directly to what is being taught, and which are built upon in school, are likely to be more effective.
- Homework is more effective if closely monitored by the teachers.
- Task-orientated homework has higher effects.
- The quality of the task set appears to be more important than the quantity of work required from the pupil.
- The purpose of homework should be made clear to pupils.
- Overall, homework in primary schools does not appear to lead to large increases in learning (but does lead to a modest increase).

As a result of this, along with our school approach to learning, at Gade Valley, we use a nuanced approach to homework to get the best outcomes.

The main principles being:

- A small amount of homework will be consistently set each week (this will be different for each key-stage).
- The homework will focus on consolidating the core areas of reading and foundational maths skills.
- Pupils will be clear on what they have to do.
- Effective feedback will be given to pupils each week.

Our Routines and Expectations

All classes will give out weekly homework on a Friday. If it is a piece that needs handing in, it is expected to be returned by the following Wednesday. The work should always have been explained and discussed in class before coming home; it is our intention, and good practice, not to send work home that the pupil cannot already do (parents are not expected to teach new skills). Each week, there should be a clear explanation/reminder from the teacher of what is expected. If homework is not handed in on time and a valid reason is not given from home, pupils will be expected to stay in during their own time to complete the work.

Current Expectations

Broadly speaking, these are current expectations each week:

Nursery - sharing books

Reception - daily reading

Year 1 - daily reading

Year 2 -daily reading, times tables

Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 -daily reading, times tables, maths calculation skills

Reading

To promote increased decoding and comprehension skills pupils should read regularly to an adult at home. We would encourage the pupils to read books from home as well as their reading scheme books. Any reading is good reading! Further guidance can be given by class teachers or through the school website.

To help encourage the pupils to read more at home with you, we have a reading initiative. When your child has read 50 times at home, they will receive a certificate celebrating their achievement. If they surpass this and then reach 100 times, they will receive the bronze award, 150 - the silver, 200 - the gold award, 250 - the Silver Star award and at 300 reads they will receive the Gold Star award. Please ensure that you sign your child's reading journal/planner each time they have read at home.

The new accelerated reader programme for KS2 pupils also has further motivational certificates such as reading 1,000,000 words or achieving certain point thresholds.

Homework expectation: We expect each pupil to read five times a week at home to an adult.

Times Tables

Each pupil from Year 2 onwards will be expected to learn their times tables and division facts, this will be through the TT Rockstars online learning platform. The pupils will be familiar with this platform as it is also used weekly in school. If your child is having difficulties in accessing the internet, please contact the school for support.

Homework expectation: We expect that each pupil (Year 2 -6) practises for at least 25 minutes a week.

Extra Support

The school will be offering support to particular pupils who struggle to complete or hand in their homework on time or may need extra help at school.

Some pupils with special learning needs will be given suitable alternative homework as identified in their learning plan.

Year 6 SATs

In the few weeks prior to SAT tests, the Year 6 pupils will be given additional revision work.

Feedback

If a pupil has struggled with an activity, the teacher or teaching assistant will go through any misconceptions. They will also give verbal feedback to pupils and brief written feedback to parents/carers in the pupil planners/reading logs.

Additional Homework Activities

If you would like additional activities to complete with your child, please contact the class teacher who will be able to provide support and advice.

Concerns with Homework

If you find the homework inappropriate for your child, if they lack interest, if it becomes a battleground or if you are concerned that homework is given inconsistently please talk with your child's teacher in the first instance. If you still have concerns, please talk with Daniel Barron, the Headteacher.