



The Oaktree School

Home Learning Policy

Autumn 2021

School name: The Oaktree School
Policy owner: Headteacher
Date: Autumn 2021
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Date shared with staff: Spring 2021

Introduction

Home learning is anything that children do outside the normal school day that contributes to their learning in response to guidance from the school. Home learning encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents to support children's learning. For example, a parent who spends time reading a story to their child before bedtime is helping with home learning.

Rationale for home learning

Home learning is a very important part of a child's education and can add much to a child's development. Children benefit greatly from the mutual support of parents and teachers in encouraging them to learn both at home and at school. Indeed we see home learning as an important way of establishing a successful dialogue between teachers and parents. One of the aims of our school is for children to develop as independent learners. We believe that home learning is one of the main ways in which children can acquire the skill of independent learning.

Home learning plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment. We also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development. While home learning is important, it should not prevent children from taking part in the wide range of out-of-school clubs and organisations that play an important part in the lives of many children. We are well aware that children spend more time at home than at school, and we believe they develop their skills, interests and talents to the full only when parents encourage them to make maximum use of the experiences and opportunities that are available outside of school.

Aims and objectives

The aims and objectives of home learning are:

- to enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development;
- to help pupils develop the skills of an independent learner;
- to promote a partnership between home and school in supporting each child's learning;
- to enhance all aspects of the curriculum;
- to consolidate and reinforce learning done in school and to allow children to practice skills taught in lessons;
- to help children develop good learning habits for the future

We set a variety of home learning activities:

- We encourage the children to read by allowing them to select books to take home to share with their parents as well as provided books for parents to share with their children to encourage and promote a love of reading.
- We provide guidance and information to parents to help them achieve the maximum benefit from this time spent reading with their child through Reading Workshops in the children's Reception Year and Learning in Year 1 workshops in Year 1 and 2.
- In Reception we send home work sheets for children to learn to recognise and practice forming the new letter sounds which they have learnt.
- In Year 1 and Year 2 Spelling Houses are posted on Google Classroom so that children can practise these in preparation for their Spelling House Quiz.
- We ask for children to practise their mental Math skills by using Maths Rocket Challenges that are posted on Google Classroom.
- There are optional home learning tasks such as the Home Learning Challenge which are detailed on Topic Grids/Webs that are posted onto Google Classroom and the school website.
- Sometimes we ask children to find and collect things that we then use in science lessons, and occasionally we ask children to take home work that they have started in school when we believe that they would benefit from spending further time on it.

- Sometimes we ask children to talk about a topic at home prior to studying it in school. For example, in the history topic on toys, we may ask children to find out what toys were popular when their grandparents were young and, if possible bring examples into school to show the other children.
- When we ask children to research a particular subject, we encourage them to use the school and local library and the Internet.

Resources

- Every child has access to their Google Classroom. Topic Grids/Webs are posted onto each classroom at the beginning of each term and can be found on the children's page of the school website.
- All the children have a Home/School Reading diary in which parents and teachers can communicate reading progress.

Pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)

If a child has special needs, we endeavour to adapt any task set so that all children can contribute in a positive way. When setting home learning to pupils who are named on the register of special needs, we refer to the Individual Support Plans (ISPs).

The role of parents

Parents have a vital role to play in their child's education, and home learning is an important part of this process. We ask parents to encourage their child to complete the home learning tasks that are set. Parents can support their child by providing a good, quiet working space at home, by enabling their child to visit the library regularly, and by discussing the work that their child is doing. This learning can then be uploaded onto their child's Google Classroom. Homework is reviewed during reading weeks.

We ask parents to listen to their child read their home reading book every day and sign the home/school Reading diary.

If parents have any problems or questions about home learning, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher.

Monitoring and review

It is the responsibility of our governing body to agree and then monitor the school home learning policy. Our governing body may, at any time, request from our headteacher a report on the way home learning is organised in our school.