



The Mead Infant and Nursery School

Homework Policy

School name: The Mead Infant and Nursery School

Status & review cycle: Annually

Next review date: Spring 1
2025

The Mead Infant and Nursery School: Homework Policy.

Parents and guardians are a child's first teachers. In the years before schooling begins, it is a parent's responsibility to ensure that their children make good progress in physical, social and intellectual learning.

At The Mead Infant and Nursery School we place great value on the partnership between parents and staff in the teaching of our children. We know that all our children have learnt a great deal from their parents before they become a pupil at The Mead Infant and Nursery School. We work hard to ensure that we listen to parents and learn about their children from them. Parents and schoolwork together to prepare each child for school. Once schooling has begun, we develop our partnership with parents when we regularly share with each other our perceptions of children's progress at home and at school.

Learning at home will always be an essential part of every child's education. When parents talk about and extend school activities with their children, they provide a vital re-enforcement of the learning begun at school. Conversely activities done at home can be re-enforced at school. In both cases it is crucial that adults show interest and praise efforts and achievements.

At The Mead Infant and Nursery School, we believe that formal homework is only part of all the learning that goes on at home. Our children are very young and still at the early stages of their learning. Parents can help so much if they simply talk to their children about their day in school.

We cannot emphasise enough the importance for all children to read at home with an adult or older sibling every day. When the children are reading their school reading books, whenever possible, this should be recorded in the 'yellow' home/schoolbooks.

In the Nursery and Year R, we do not believe that Homework should be any more formal than a sharing of a book. In addition, in Year R a simple handwriting pattern or counting activity is also sent home. In Year 1, the daily sharing of a book is still vital, but homework will include a Literacy or Numeracy activity or Handwriting. In Year 2, this is extended to include some creative writing and problem solving.

At the start of each week, parents receive a letter from the Year Group Leader. It outlines the work all children in that Year Group will cover in the week to come. It also explains to parents the ways in which they can extend school learning at home. Some of this will be in the form of homework.

In general, homework is as follows:

Nursery:

A vital way of supporting learning at home is by ensuring children have the foundations of the prime areas so that their children are able to communicate, independent, physically active and emotionally ready to start Nursery. Each child takes home a book from the Nursery Library every week. 'Coming up next week' details learning that will take place during the following week. Here, links to stories are provided, where possible, and activities that will be explored in Nursery will be explained. Parents are encouraged to take an interest in these learning opportunities with their children, and are welcome to share this, along with any 'wow' moments through the online platform, Evidence me.

Reception Year:

Throughout the year, every child takes home books and parents have access to an online reading record. The books are from our reading scheme. They are read in school and at home, so forming a home-school link in this vital aspect of learning.

As part of the parental contract signed at the start of reception, parents agree to read with their child at least four times a week. Children are able to change their book as frequently as they like but we ask children to practise reading a book more than once to develop their fluency, prosody and comprehension skills.

The children start to bring home a school Library book in the autumn term. This book is chosen independently by the child and can be shared with family members and friends at home.

In the autumn term, the children will undertake a range of sound and numerical activities and are given handwriting patterns and letter formation practise to complete at home. These encourage the development of hand-eye co-ordination and an understanding of correct letter formation.

In the spring term, the children are set practical maths challenges to complete at home and they will begin to practice number formation. If appropriate, the children may continue to be given handwriting practise.

In the summer term, children take home writing picture stimuli to practise orally forming sentences and writing these down. Some phonic work may be sent home in addition to this.

Parents are encouraged to take an interest in these learning opportunities with their children and are welcome to share this through the online platform, Evidence me.

Year 1:

The children are encouraged to read at home frequently; they are able to change their books daily and will be given reminders by the teaching staff.

Stickers are awarded to children who read four or more times each week

In the autumn term the children are given handwriting homework, designed to help them develop their letter formation and practise spelling key words.

In the spring and summer terms the children take home writing, maths or phonics activities. These activities reinforce the skills taught in school that week. On occasions children will also be asked to find out the answers to questions that support their topic learning

Homework is always outlined in each 'Coming Up Next Week' bulletin. Phonics sounds and new reading vocabulary that is being introduced within guided reading sessions will also be detailed.

Homework is given out on a Friday, to be returned by the following Wednesday.

Year 2:

The Homework in Year 2 is more formal than in previous years. Reading on a nightly basis continues to be vital to each child's Literacy development. Each child has a Homework book.

The children are given Spellings to practise, as well as Literacy, Numeracy or Topic based homework weekly. This will either be based on the previous week's lessons to consolidate learning or will be designed to prepare children for the following week's learning.

Homework is given out on a Friday to be returned the following Wednesday. We expect children to complete this work neatly, in pencil and to the best of their ability.

We aim to make the instructions and purpose for the completion of the homework activity clear to the child and parents. We know that it is neither possible nor desirable for children to do formal homework every night of the week. We expect daily reading, and all other work can be done over a period of a week. We always welcome constructive comments on our home-school work.