



The Mead Infant and Nursery School

Homework Policy

School name: The Mead Infant and Nursery School

Status & review cycle: Annually

Next review date: Spring 2027

The Mead Infant and Nursery School: Homework Policy

At The Mead Infant and Nursery School, we place great value on the partnership between parents and staff in supporting our children's learning. We recognise that every child arrives at school having already learned a great deal from their parents, and we work hard to listen, understand, and build upon this knowledge. Once children join us, we continue to develop this partnership by regularly sharing our insights into each child's progress, both at home and at school.

Learning at home is an essential part of every child's education. When parents talk about school activities and build upon them at home, they provide important reinforcement of the learning that begins in the classroom. Equally, activities completed at home can be further developed at school. In both cases, it is vital that adults show interest, encouragement, and praise for children's efforts and achievements.

At The Mead Infant and Nursery School, we believe that homework represents only a small part of the rich learning that takes place at home. Our children are very young and at the early stages of their education, and parents can offer valuable support simply by talking with them about their day.

We cannot emphasise enough the importance of children reading at home with an adult or older sibling every day. When children read their school reading books, this should be recorded in their yellow reading record wherever possible.

In the EYFS, we believe homework should remain informal and centred around the simple sharing of a book. In Year R, children may also bring home a small handwriting pattern, phonics task, or counting activity. In Year 1, daily book sharing continues to be vital, and homework may also include a Literacy or Numeracy activity or handwriting practice. Alongside reading, Year 2 homework includes short tasks linked to the Phonics and SPaG learning covered in class that week. These activities help reinforce key skills such as spelling patterns, sentence punctuation, and grammar rules. Children also receive Maths homework that directly relates to the topics they are learning at school. This might include practising number facts, solving simple problems, or using strategies introduced in lessons.

At the end of each week, parents receive a "Coming Up Next Week" overview. This outlines the learning planned for the following week and suggests ways in which parents can support and extend learning at home. Some of these suggestions may take the form of homework.

In general, homework is as follows:

Nursery:

A vital way to support learning at home is by ensuring children have strong foundations in the prime areas, enabling them to communicate effectively, develop independence, stay physically active, and be emotionally ready to start Nursery.

Each week, every child takes home a book from the Nursery Library to share with their family. The 'Coming Up Next Week' overview outlines the learning planned for the following week. Where possible, it includes links to stories as well as explanations of the activity's children will explore in Nursery. Parents are encouraged to engage with these learning opportunities at home and are warmly invited to share their child's experiences or any special 'wow' moments through our online platform, *Evidence Me*.

Children's progress is shared with parents during parent consultation meetings and conversations. During these discussions, appropriate activities and strategies are explored collaboratively to support parents in extending their child's learning and development at home.

Reception Year:

Throughout the year, every child takes home both reading scheme books and library books. The reading scheme books are used in school and at home, helping to strengthen the home-school partnership in this vital aspect of learning.

As part of the Home-School Agreement, parents agree to read with their child at least four times a week. Children may change their reading book as often as they wish; however, we encourage them to read each book more than once so they can develop fluency, prosody, and comprehension.

In the autumn term, children begin bringing home a school library book each week. This book is chosen independently by the child and is intended to be shared and enjoyed with family and friends at home.

From the beginning of Autumn 1, children bring home a sounds folder which links directly to their phonics lessons in school. This continues throughout the rest of the school year, supporting children in practising and consolidating their phonics knowledge at home.

From Autumn 2, children are also sent home with maths homework. This continues through Spring 1 and Spring 2, with tasks designed to complement and reinforce the maths learning taking place in school.

In the summer term, the homework focus shifts to writing. Children are sent home with pictures to use as a stimulus for their writing, encouraging them to rehearse sentences orally before writing them down.

Year 1:

Children are encouraged to read as often as possible. They may change their reading books daily, and teaching staff will provide regular reminders to support this routine.

In the autumn term, children are given handwriting homework designed to develop accurate letter formation and support the spelling of key words.

During the spring and summer terms, children take home writing, maths, or phonics activities. These tasks reinforce the skills taught in school that week. From time to time, children may also be asked to research answers to questions that link with their current topic learning. All homework is outlined in the weekly *Coming Up Next Week* overview. This also includes details of new phonics sounds and reading vocabulary being introduced during guided reading sessions.

Homework is issued each Friday and should be returned by the following Wednesday.

Year 2:

Homework in Year 2 becomes more formal than in previous years. Daily reading remains essential for each child's literacy development, and every child is provided with a Homework Book to support their learning at home.

Each week, children are given spellings to practise, along with a Numeracy based homework task. These activities may consolidate learning from the previous week or prepare children for the learning ahead.

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

We aim to ensure that both children and parents clearly understand the instructions and purpose of each homework activity. We recognise that it is neither possible nor desirable for children to complete formal homework every night. Daily reading is expected, while all other tasks can be completed at any point across the week.