



## **Newnham Croft Primary School Home Learning Policy**

### **Policy Rationale**

The school believes that one of the most effective ways to support a child's learning is through the development of a strong and consistent partnership between home and school. The aim of this policy is to state the school's view on home learning that reflect the shared expectations of standards between home and school and a common ethos of caring and valuing children's efforts and achievements.

In signing the Newnham Croft Home-School Agreement, parents and carers agree to support their children in opportunities for home learning. This policy aims to provide further guidance on how parents and carers can best provide that support together with general information on the home learning that will be set for their child.

At Newnham Croft we believe that formal homework tasks other than those mentioned below have limited impact on a child's progress. We believe that our children put 100% of their energy into the school day and generally make the most of the learning opportunities that we provide. After school it is useful if children can enjoy reading with their parents/carers and spend some time practising basic skills such as spelling, number bonds and times tables. We have set out below some guidelines for parents to follow to encourage home learning. We will also share a range of links to suitable Home Learning support on the school website. These guidelines contain a number of ideas for involving children in reading maths and other learning activities.

Parents and Carers may also like to make use of the resources available on the Internet, ideally from links provided. However rather than spending time on longer pieces of homework, we believe it is much more useful for our children to pursue their own interests, hobbies, enjoy the local environment, read for pleasure, have family discussions, use money, time telling, playing board games, doing puzzles, sharing out food and relax with friends or their families.

The expectation of Home Learning will be gradually increase as the children move through KS2 and into Year 6; where the children will benefit from more formal home learning tasks in preparation for the homework they will be expected to complete at secondary school.

### **The Importance of home learning**

We believe that home learning is important because:

- it supports children's progress
- it provides opportunities for research and developing interests which may lead to life long learning
- it encourages children to be responsible and learn independently from their peer group yet be supported in their activities by their family.
- it provides valuable practice of skills learned in the classroom
- it encourages organisational skills
- it prepares children for secondary school
- it can be a shared and pleasurable activity developing a lifelong attitude towards learning.

### **How Parents and Carers can support their child's home learning**

Parents/Carers can help their children by:

1. Maximising leaning opportunities as they arise during normal daily activities at home such as shopping and cooking with their child (please see other documentation from the school to support this)
2. Making the most of their local environment e.g. parks and museums in Cambridge as well as special events for children outside of school.
3. Helping their child organise his or her time to best advantage so that things are not all left to the last minute or even forgotten.
4. If appropriate, checking that home learning details are filled in clearly and regularly in the home learning books.
5. Making sure there are suitable working conditions at home.
6. Taking a positive and active interest in their child’s learning at home and their interests.
7. By providing explanations and encouragement but making sure that the home learning is all their child’s work.
8. Letting us know if there are any problems with home learning that cannot be resolved at home. We do not want this to be the cause of conflict at home. If this is the case parents should contact the class teacher in the first instance who will be glad to help.

## Home Learning Guidelines

Reception	<p>It is recommended that children</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read every evening with their parents</li> <li>• practise reading a range of high frequency words and extend reading vocabulary</li> </ul> <p>In addition we recommend that parents use everyday opportunities to support their children practise reading, writing and numeracy skills. Examples of this would be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• reading labels and signs</li> <li>• reading and writing letters, making notes, birthday cards, shopping list etc</li> <li>• playing word and number games such as word snap, snakes and ladders, ludo</li> <li>• measuring/reading/counting in simple cooking recipes</li> <li>• real shopping using small amounts of money</li> <li>• saying/chanting rhymes and singing songs, perhaps from memory.</li> </ul> <p>All children may have poetry, dialogue or songs to be learned for productions and other school events.</p>
KS1	<p>Children will bring home a book from the Home Reading system or classroom with their reading record each evening. They will also be sent home texts to read from the Big Cat portal which matches the phonics being currently taught. Parents and carers are invited to give feedback in the record book. Please see Appendix A regarding the Home Reading system.</p> <p>Guidelines are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to practise reading skills for at least 10 minutes each evening</li> <li>• to learn relevant spellings for common exception words</li> <li>• to practise number bonds and place value</li> </ul> <p>All children may have poetry, dialogue or songs to be learned for productions and other school events.</p>
Year 1 & 2	

Lower KS2	<p>Guidelines are as follows</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to practise their reading skills for at least 15 minutes each evening</li> <li>to learn relevant spellings and high frequency words, three times a week</li> </ul>
Year 3 & 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to practise numeracy skills which may be number bonds or multiplication tables, three times a week</li> <li>on occasion there might be a project for the children to undertake, based on either whole school initiatives</li> </ul> <p>All children may have poetry, dialogue or songs to be learned for productions and other school events.</p>
Upper KS2	<p>Children will record details of homework in either their English or Maths books. Staff try to ensure that the instructions about homework are clear to everyone in the class and that all children have time to write down what is expected of them. Children are also told how long they are expected spend on the work. Older children will be expected to spend longer on their homework.</p>
Year 5	<p><u>Daily</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to practise their reading skills for at least 15 minutes</li> <li>to continue to practise relevant spellings and tables</li> </ul> <p><u>Weekly</u></p> <p>To complete a SPAG (spelling, punctuation and grammar) task.</p>
Year 6	<p><u>Daily</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to practise their reading skills for at least 15 minutes</li> <li>to continue to practise relevant spellings and tables</li> </ul> <p><u>Weekly</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to complete a maths task (30-45 mins)</li> <li>to complete an English task (30-45 mins)</li> <li>on occasion there might be a project for the children to undertake, based on either whole school initiatives</li> </ul> <p>All children may have poetry, dialogue or music to be learned for productions and other school events</p>

## Assessment, Recording and Reporting

Parents/Carers will receive information about individual progress with Home Learning through Parent Teacher Consultations and the annual Pupil Progress Report, or more frequently if necessary.

Any completed homework will be marked and responded to regularly and in a way that is helpful to pupils. Reading records will be checked once per week.

## Appendix A

### Key Stage One Home Readers

Newnham Croft follows the Cambridgeshire Local Authority system of colour-banded reading books to encourage parents and pupils to read together at home. Parents choose the books themselves (either before or after school) and keep a record of home reading with comments. The boxes of each colour band are located in the corridor outside the ICT suite. Any queries about a child's current reading level/band should be addressed to their teacher.

The colour bands are as follows:

**Pink – Letters and Sounds Phonic Phase 2**

**Red - Letters and Sounds Phonic Phase 3**

**Yellow - Letters and Sounds Phonic Phases 3-4/Early Learning Goals**

Yellow is the expected level of attainment for most children at the end of Reception.

**Dark Blue – National Curriculum Level 1c/Phonic Phases 4-5**

**Green – National Curriculum Level 1b/Phonic Phase 5**

**Orange - National Curriculum Level 1a/Phonic Phase 5-6**

Orange is the expected level of attainment for most children at the end of Year 1.

**Light Blue/Turquoise – National Curriculum Level 1a/Phonic Phases 5-6**

**Purple – National Curriculum Level 2c/Phonic Phase 6**

**Brown - National Curriculum Level 2b/Phonic Phase 6**

Brown is the expected level of attainment for most children at the end of Year 2.

**White - National Curriculum Level 2a**

**Black - National Curriculum Level 3c**

Black is the expected level of attainment for most children at the end of Year 3.