



## Home Learning Policy 2021-2022



*At Two Mile Ash School, high standards of achievement, behaviour and respect for each other, underpin everything we do. Our teachers strive to create independent, articulate thinkers and learners who have the confidence to realise their ambitions. Our pupils are happy, highly engaged and thrive from a rich and vibrant curriculum. This drives us in our pursuit for achieving excellence every day.*

## **Home Learning**

Home learning is any work, activity or experiences which children are asked to do outside of school time, either on their own or with their parents or carers. Home learning is an essential part of a good education to reinforce learning which has taken place in school and to develop the skills and attitudes of independent study in readiness for lifelong learning.

If home learning is effective, it also opens another channel of home-school communication and greater opportunities for a home-school partnership which is a very important tool for promoting children's learning.

The home learning programme at Two Mile Ash School is seen as part of the overall strategy of raising standards and making the best of children's learning.

### **The focus on Essential Skills**

Home learning activities throughout the school have an emphasis upon the basic skills of English and mathematics, primarily focused upon the development of reading, handwriting, spelling and mathematical fluency skills.

### **Reading**

The importance of reading at home cannot be over-emphasised and we hope that pupils will read for pleasure in their own time, which is reflecting in our 'Reading Pledge'. Reading widely and regularly fuels children's imaginations, develops knowledge and understanding and also models styles of sentence structures and features which children can then use in their own writing.

All pupils will be provided with a school reading book, matched to their ability, which can be taken home to read with a parent/carer or other adult. As part of our reading pledge, we would like pupils to read for at least 10 minutes a day (5 days a week) and for this to be recorded in the reading record by an adult. In Years 3 and 4, a reading record is provided for parents to sign and make daily comments in when they have listened to their child read and this will be monitored regularly by the class teacher. In Years 5 and 6, children also have a reading record to record their daily reading which is initialled weekly by parents. In addition, upper school children have reading summaries to complete half termly to demonstrate their reading comprehension. Upper school reading records will also be monitored regularly by the class teacher.

Within the reading record, there is space for the pupil to record new vocabulary that they have been exposed to, as well as the end of key stage spellings and a grammar index to support parents. Furthermore, the reading records include useful question prompts to be used when adults and children are reading together.

In addition to being allocated reading books, pupils will also be allocated a book, biweekly, through the learning platform, Active Learn. Pupils are required to read through the book and complete the comprehension activities. The pupils will be given log on details to allow them to access this.

### **Spelling**

Every week the pupils will be sent home with spellings to learn, which they will be tested on in class. These may be from the list of most common 200 words, the more challenging words from the National Curriculum or they may be based around a spelling rule the children have learnt about in school. These spelling lists will be sent through the pupils Microsoft Teams account.

## **Grammar and Punctuation**

Years 3, 4 and 5 will receive grammar homework for their English class, biweekly. This will be using the Spelling and Grammar Bug on Active learn. Year 6 will set grammar homework weekly, alternating between Active Learn and pieces set by their English teacher through Microsoft Teams.

## **Handwriting**

It is important that children can communicate and express their thoughts and ideas in writing which is easy and pleasurable for others to read. At TMA, we use cursive handwriting script. Pupils should therefore practise their handwriting, joining letters when appropriate and developing a neat, flowing and regular script. Activities and modelled examples can be found on the Letter-join website.

## **Mathematics**

The learning of key number facts and instant recall of multiplication tables enables pupils to become confident and competent mathematicians. Each pupil has their own personal log on and password for an online multiplication tables platform called [TT Rockstars](#), which is a fun, game style website. Pupils are encouraged to practice their multiplication times tables at home weekly using this website. The pupils will also be set a weekly online maths lesson and home work through the [MyMaths](#) online platform. Each child has their own personal MyMaths log on and password. The weekly home works are set by the pupil's maths teacher and will either consolidate learning from that week's maths lessons or will be revision of maths concepts already taught. MyMaths gives instant feedback to the child and the teacher will also leave personalised weekly feedback through the online platform.

## **Home learning expectations - balancing work and play**

As a school, we recognise the importance of family time and the need for children to participate in a range of activities outside school. We consider that the amount of time spent on activities completed at home should not be excessive and should be proportionate to the age of the pupil.

Whilst pupils are not expected to complete home learning activities during the holiday periods, we would request that parents continue to encourage their children to read regularly for pleasure from a wide variety of reading materials.

## **Home learning expectations in all year groups**

Pupils are expected to complete the following activities on a daily basis:

- Reading to an adult from either their school reading book (and a book from home) and completing their Reading Record.
- Learning 'Key Instant Recall Facts' and multiplication tables, copies of which are on the school's website.

Pupils are expected to complete the following activities on a weekly basis:

- Learning spellings of words which are uploaded weekly onto the pupils individual Microsoft Teams account.
- Completing the online maths activity on MyMaths.

Pupils are expected to complete the following activities alternately on a weekly basis:

- Reading books online on Bug Club as set by the teacher and answering comprehension questions.
- Grammar and Punctuation Activity through the Bug Club online platform.

Pupils may also be given specific activities to consolidate and extend curricular learning, encourage and develop independent learning skills. These activities may involve:

- Researching a topic or finding out information
- Reading in preparation for lessons
- Preparing oral presentations
- Completing written pieces of work
- Investigating mathematical problems
- Revision for Key Stage 2 SATs tests (Year 6 only)

If a pupil would like the opportunity to develop their learning further, links to activities can be found in the Home Learning section on the TMA website.

### **Personalising Home Learning**

The school is committed to ensuring that all work set for completion at home is appropriate to the differing needs of the children. Children with special educational needs or those in small support groups may benefit from being given work which is different from that which is given to the rest of the class or group. If this is the case, they are not expected to complete work set for the rest of the class in addition to their individually differentiated work.

#### **Version:**

V1 – Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2019

V2– Friday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2020

V3- Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2020

V4- Monday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2021

#### **Approval:**

This policy was ratified by Two Mile Ash Governing Body.

#### **Next Review on or before:**

**October 2022**

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Two Mile Ash Strategic Leadership Team and approved by the Governing Body at least on an annual basis (although amendments prior to this may occur to reflect the key changes and proposals within curriculum currently occurring)