



CURIOUS CHILDREN
GROWING MASSIVE MINDS

Maidenbower Junior School

Home Learning Policy

We define home learning as any activity that pupils undertake outside of school lesson time, either on their own or with the support of family members. At MJS we have a strong commitment to parental involvement and see home learning as one way of developing this partnership.

Why give homework?

- It can inform parents about work going on in class;
- It can further stimulate enthusiasm for learning;
- It takes advantage of the home environment and resources
- It provides the chance for some one-to-one adult time e.g. in reading;
- It can be a great source for gathering topic information to share with all the children;
- It is a great opportunity to rehearse key skills such as times tables, doubling facts, addition calculations, spelling or handwriting;
- It helps to foster good habits of organisation and self discipline in preparation for the demands of Secondary School.

Home learning at our school

We have had discussions with many groups of pupils and our children have given feedback to us regarding the type of tasks that they feel benefit their learning, as well as tasks that do not. Younger children spoke about the importance of reading and times tables, with some children saying "I don't like having to research and then write about it as it takes too long." Our older children were mature when discussing the importance of homework to prepare them for secondary school, while also identifying that they prefer tasks where they can be independent and not have to ask parents for help.

Using this evidence from pupil voice, and after consultation with the governing body, we believe that time spent on home learning should be focussed on the core skills of reading, spelling and mental maths. We have decided that no other forms of homework will be set during the week, so no home learning tasks will need to be given out, or handed in. Broadly speaking these are our current routines and expectations:

Years 3, 4 and 5

- All core tasks are set on a Tuesday.
- Weekly spelling which will be tested in class.
- Reading is 4 times per week (Accelerated Reader will monitor this).
- A mental maths task is set, usually in the form of Maths Shed computer games.

Year 6

As children reach Year 6, they will receive an additional home learning task to help prepare them for the demands of secondary school; however these tasks will be purposeful, and will consolidate learning that has taken place in class.

In the few weeks prior to SAT tests, Year 6 children may be given additional revision work.

Our children work extremely hard in the time that they are in school and we hope that they can use this extra time to pursue hobbies and interests, or to simply relax and talk to their family about their day.

We know there will be parents who want to set extra home learning tasks for their child and we understand that. On our website, in the children's section, there are links to excellent resources in the Maths Shed and Spelling Shed, along with other links to websites where children can further their learning. We will continue to share termly overviews to inform parents of topics, so family visits can be organised to support learning.

If you take holiday during term-time, something we actively discourage, parents may not request work from the teacher. We suggest that parents organise a holiday diary.

What to do if you have concerns

If you find that the set home learning is inappropriate for your child, if they lack interest, if it becomes a battleground or if you are concerned that tasks are given inconsistently, please talk with your child's teacher in the first instance.

If you still have concerns, please talk with either of our two Deputies; Miss Negus (Years 3 and 4) and Mr Pike (Years 5 and 6) or Elaine Jenkins the Headteacher.

Signed by : 

Elaine Jenkins

Head teacher

Signed by : 

Richard Lederle

Chair of Governors