



ALDERMAN JACOBS PRIMARY SCHOOL (ACADEMY TRUST)

HOMework POLICY

Aims

These include to:

- Provide a consistency of approach throughout the school
- Extend and support learning
- Provide opportunities for pupils and parents to share learning experiences

Legislation and Guidance

Whilst it is not a legal requirement for schools to set homework, and parents are not required by law to make their children complete it the Department for Education (DfE) sees homework as "an important part of a child's education". The DfE states that homework set should be at a "reasonable" level of difficulty and an "appropriate" amount, depending on the age and abilities of individual pupils.

Introduction

At Alderman Jacobs Primary School, we all appreciate that home/school links are important and we need to work together to ensure a good education for our children. It is for this reason that children begin to bring "work" home from when they enter school. This enables children to see parents and teachers working together and provides parents with an opportunity to help their child to learn.

Our approach to homework varies throughout the school according to the age of the child. One thing that does remain constant is that homework will only benefit the child if we have parents' support. Across school we now set themed homework projects to encourage the children to begin to investigate a new area of learning before we begin the teaching in school. This is usually open ended and can be in a variety of forms. I have seen many parents staggering towards our doors weighed down with castles, planes or solar systems, to name but a few.

We still need to maintain progress for each child over each term and we need your support for this too and so we ask you to support your child's learning in spellings, tables and reading. We will continue to send home other tasks for the children to complete at home but these should be specific to your child's needs. From Early years we have already introduced Swap boxes in each class where the children can choose a book to bring home to share with a member of their family. These books are to be enjoyed but do not have to be read by the child. These are available for swapping as needed.

Foundation Stage - We estimate homework in Early Years should be up to 10 minutes per day.

Once the children are settled into school we will begin to send home phonemes for children to continue recognition and practise formation. We will also begin to send home key words (high frequency words) for the children to learn.

When the children are ready we will send reading home in bags every day. Later in the year we will send home ditty sheets or ditty books when appropriate, which match your child's phonics level.

We will offer a parent support videos and cafes to share how we teach RWI and maths and how you can support your child at home. Reading initially focuses on sharing books and developing vocabulary as well as learning new words. The minimum expectation is to read with your child 3 times a week. Please record a comment in your child's reading record each time they have read at home. This will be monitored weekly by class teachers. Teachers find these comments informative and it promotes strong links between home and school and a positive commitment to reading.

We encourage parents to share home learning through the use of Tapestry. These home observations can be shared with your child's class and teacher.

Year 1 ~ In Year 1 we aim to set homework for one hour per week. Children in Year 1 will bring home reading books and/or RWI books or RWIInc 'take home' books every day and they will be expected to read at least 3 times a week. Spellings, split into ability levels, will be sent home once a week for children to learn and will be consolidated in a taught session in school. Maths 'help at home' is available on the website to provide additional opportunities and children have access to Numbots for practice of number skills. Further activities may be sent home as deemed necessary via our School Comms system or on Google Classroom.

From Year 2: Homework will steadily increase in expectation but some things will remain constant. We aim to set homework for one hour per week. Children in Year 2 will bring home reading books and/or RWI books or RWIInc 'take home' books every day and they will be expected to read at least 3 times a week. Spellings, split into ability levels, will be sent home once a week for children to learn and will be consolidated in a taught session in

school. Daily reading is encouraged and parents are asked to complete comments in the child's record book three times a week. Maths homework will be available through Time Tables Rockstars.

Year 3 and onwards: During Year 3, Years 4 and 5 children will continue to read a variety of books, often from our school library or the decodable books in their year group and will be assessed at regular intervals via numerous strategies. Once given a suitable book band, they are encouraged to make choices from a variety of genres. For further information, please see our website.

In addition to this Maths homework will be available through Time Tables Rockstars.

As with other year groups spelling is set weekly with a range of strategies and consolidated in a taught session in school.

Year 6 ~ Homework in Y6 follows the same approach as Y3-5 initially. As the end of year tests approach, Year 6 children are encouraged to complete revision homework which is set by Year 6 teachers. Parents and teachers together undertake the revision of KS2 work with the children in English and Maths. Revision books for these subjects are allocated to the children well in advance of such assessments. The children are also expected to read at least three times per week at home to improve their fluency and comprehension skills.

General

There are other times when we ask for your support at home. Children sometimes bring words home to learn for their class assembly or for their Christmas production. We ask also that for our special events, such as Tudor Days and Victorian Days, that you provide a costume. Guidance regarding these will come from school, usually using household textiles, old clothes and adapted uniform. Help with simple costumes for assemblies and productions may also be requested but only annually. Children learning musical instruments will be asked to practice at home and we do need your support in this.

Marking and Supporting Homework

Pupils will receive feedback in line with our marking policy where appropriate and usually orally too.

If children are absent from school because they are sick then we would not send work home. We would make the assumption that they are not well enough to work.

It may happen that a child is absent for a length of time, though she/he is well enough to do some work at home, e.g. a broken leg. In these circumstances it is up to the teacher and the parent to agree what should be done, how it will be marked and what sort of help needs to be given. In such circumstances the teacher should consult with the Assistant Head for the year group first.

If you have any queries about homework, please see your child's teacher or Assistant Head Teacher for the phase.

Top Ten Tips for Parents to Encourage Learning Outside School (*Information taken from Department for Children, Schools and Families documentation*)

- Give your child plenty of praise and encouragement. Specific praise related to a particular aspect of work is most effective.
- Read to and with your child as much as possible. Try to read a range of styles from school and home (fiction, fact, magazines, comics, etc.) to develop their enjoyment.
- Encourage children to observe and talk about their surroundings. Even young children can be helped to read notices and signs, for example, and understand what they mean.
- Make use of your local library and museums and look out for special events and services they provide for children.
- If your children like watching television, watch it with them sometimes and encourage them to talk about what they have seen. They will get more out of the experience.
- Try to set time aside to do homework activities with children. We are happy for family members to join in too to make it a positive and enjoyable experience!
- Wherever possible, try to provide a reasonably quiet place for children to do homework so that they are able to concentrate.
- Encourage your child to discuss homework with you, including feedback from teachers. Practice helping without taking over!
- The internet can be a valuable resource when used under supervision. Sit with your child and enjoy some of the games and activities using websites suggested at school or search for some together.
- Try to help your child to see the enjoyable aspects of homework!

Links to other policies

Curriculum

Statutory/ Non-Statutory							
Reviewed		Ratified		Review Frequency	Next Review Date	Signed by	
By	Date	By	Date			Head	Chair
Elaine Crane	Spring 2023	Achievement Committee	18 Jan 2023	3 Years	Spring 2026	<i>Cathy Carlisle</i>	<i>Atterend</i>