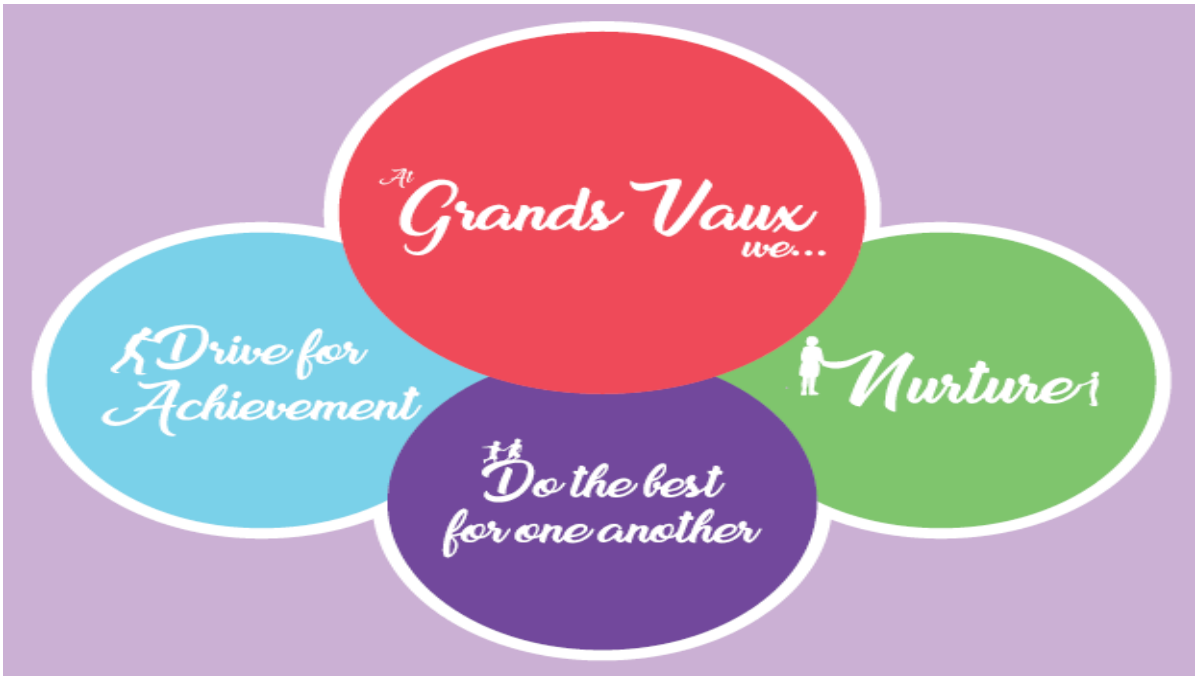
Homework Policy



Agreed: …… Review Date: …….

Aim of the Policy
This policy aims to provide staff and parents with clarity about our school's approach to setting homework. This will ensure there is consistency of approach through the school and a clear rationale.

Principles

At Grands Vaux School we consider homework to be an important aspect of school life. We believe it can:

Support children's learning at school

- Enable children to practice, perhaps in a real-life context, skills they have been learning at school.
- Provide children with the opportunity to extend learning independently.
- Helps children develop organisation skills that will help them cope with future states of their learning, such as when they move to secondary school.
- Promote home-school links, and can help parents understand what their child is learning at school.
- Give children an opportunity to celebrate their successes.

We believe that all homework should:

- Have a clear learning purpose that is linked to the learning going on in school.
- Support learning and our Core Values and not become a cause of anxiety or stress.
- Be something that the child can achieve, so suited to their learning needs.
- Be regular, and set as explained.
- Be clearly explained to children and parents.
- Be time-bonded so that it does not take too much time.
- Be varied- some being interactive and open-ended, some being written, some being 'challenge' based, some being 'game' based.

We believe that all homework should not:

- Require the teaching of new skills.
- Become stressful for the child or parents.
- Be so open-ended that there is no clear 'finish'.
- Rely on parents to do it with the children too often.
- Become too repetitive.
- Become too time-consuming.
- Have no purpose.

In order to keep you informed, we have set down below a guide to the kinds of tasks that teachers set, and the way homework builds up through the school.

This plan is not set in stone, it is a guide. There will be occasions when children bring home different pieces of work, for specific reasons.

Setting Homework through the school

Nursery
We do not send home 'formal' homework in Nursery. From time to time we might ask you to discuss something that we have been/are going to be learning about with your child at home.
We also promote and encourage parents to talk to their children as much as possible and give them lots of real-life experiences, such as getting out and about. We also hope that parents will read to their children in Nursery every day.

Reception
Each child will bring home a book every week to share at home. All children are provided with a Phase 2 letters and sounds mat with tricky words on the reverse. Each child is also given a sounds book which contains the letter sounds

they already know and some new sounds to learn each week at home. Once children have learned the letter sounds from Phase 2, they will be given the Phase 3 sounds mat and one reading book each week to take home and read. New Phase 3 sounds will also go into sounds books so children can continue to practice new sounds each week.

Year 1:
Each child will bring home a library book every week to share at home. Children take home up to 3 reading books per week. Each week, children have spellings to learn and High Frequency Word to read. They are tested on these at the end of each week. Learning Logs are sent home every two weeks. This homework is related to the topic and is all about taking photos, researching online with parents and cutting and sticking this in.

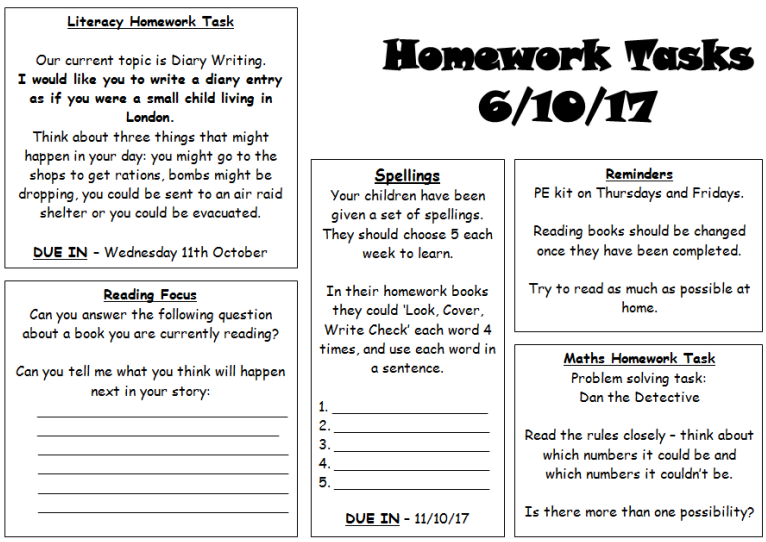
Year 2:
Each child will bring home a library book every week to share at home. Children take home 1 reading book per week. Each week, children have spellings to learn. They are tested on these at the end of each week. Children will have one piece of Maths Homework each week and a project based Homework every 2 weeks.

Year 3 and 4
Each week the children bring home a reading book that will either be a 'levelled book' or a free choice book. Children are expected to read each day at home. The purpose of reading at home is to promote a 'love of reading' which can be shared together in a range of ways. On a Friday children are set a maths activity that is to be brought back on a Wednesday. In each child's Home-Learning folder there will be a spelling pack. This pack includes the spelling list that the child is currently working on and a selection of games and activities that will help children learn their spellings at home. Each term there will be a home-learning project related the classes' current learning or topic.

Year 5 and 6
Children are expected to read for an average of 20 minutes every evening. Children are encouraged to read for shorter periods of time but often. The aim is to create a love of reading so we encourage them to read a range of media (newspaper articles, books, web articles etc.) The children will be set one piece of maths work, a piece of literacy work, 5 spelling individualised to their needs a reading focus.

Year 1 to Year 4
Homework is explained in class and children will bring it home in their book bag. If you wish to write a comment, about how your child tackled the homework, please do so, on the homework sheet.

Year 6
In Year 5 and 6 the children will have a 'Homework Sheet'. This will be stuck into their homework books on a Monday and will detail all of the week's homework. Please see an example of this below:



Literacy Homework Task

Our current topic is Diary Writing.
I would like you to write a diary entry as if you were a small child living in London.
Think about three things that might happen in your day: you might go to the shops to get rations, bombs might be dropping, you could be sent to an air raid shelter or you could be evacuated.

DUE IN - Wednesday 11th October

Reading Focus
Can you answer the following question about a book you are currently reading?

Can you tell me what you think will happen next in your story:

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

Homework Tasks
6/10/17

Spellings
Your children have been given a set of spellings. They should choose 5 each week to learn.

In their homework books they could 'Look, Cover, Write Check' each word 4 times, and use each word in a sentence.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

DUE IN - 11/10/17

Reminders
PE kit on Thursdays and Fridays.

Reading books should be changed once they have been completed.

Try to read as much as possible at home.

Maths Homework Task
Problem solving task:
Dan the Detective

Read the rules closely - think about which numbers it could be and which numbers it couldn't be.

Is there more than one possibility?

Homework Club

Key Stage 2 staff run a Homework Club on a Monday lunch time for 30 minutes. During this time children can work on their homework tasks for that week and are able to access support from a teacher. Homework club is available on a week by week 'drop in' basis or they can attend weekly.

If any children are regularly not completing and handing in their homework they are asked to join homework club and the parent is spoken to personally.

Parents Role

Teachers should explain to parents in their curriculum letters how much support they would like them to give their children with their homework, and whether or not they would wish them to correct errors in written work, such as spellings. If parents are unsure about their role in supporting homework they should contact their child's class teacher.

If homework becomes a really stressful experience for the child and/or parent, it is taking too long to complete, or you have any other questions or concerns about how to complete it, please talk to the class teacher about this. It is essential homework adds to school learning and does not become a 'battle of wills'.

CHANGE HISTORY

Version	Date Issued	Issued by	Reason for Change	Presented To	Approved by:	Date
0.1	October 2017	JHa	Change in processes for spelling and Year 5 and 6 expectation	SLT	Maria McCool	06.10.17