

Torphins Primary School



**Homework
Policy Document
October 2013**

Torphins Primary School - Homework Guidance

Introduction

Successful learning for your child involves the child, parent/carer and school. In order to help your child reach their full potential your support is vital throughout the years of their schooling. Homework is one of the many ways of supporting your child and linking with school. Homework should not be an onerous task and we are conscious of the fact that many pupils are involved in activities outside school which are valuable to their education and overall development. In keeping with the ethos of Curriculum for Excellence we encourage and celebrate these wider achievements.

Homework is set for a variety of reasons and is not about quantity

Aims

- Encourage pupils to become responsible for their own learning and develop a positive homework routine.
- Develop awareness that learning is a life skill which happens both in and out of school.
- Encourage independence and good learning habits.
- Help children to practise and consolidate class work.
- Develop organisational skills.

Homework Tasks

Each class will have their own homework tasks and patterns which will be shared with you. How this is shared with you will depend on the age of your child. For younger pupils this may be a note home from the class teacher. Gradually, as your child progresses through the school, in preparation for transition to the academy, they will be responsible for recording and sharing details of their homework tasks with you.

Reading

Reading is an essential life skill. Pupils are taught key skills within Torphins School and we aim to encourage a lifelong love of reading. Reading is also about understanding. Your child may be able to read the words accurately, however, they are not rushed through our reading programme books as we also need to develop higher level reading skills and devote time to comprehension and inferential understanding. Reading and writing go hand in hand and children need to be able to transfer reading skills into written tasks. We provide reading homework but you can further support your child at home by encouraging personal reading of any texts of their choice that you can supply.

How You Can Help with Reading at Home

- Read any homework reading books with your child discussing the text, the pictures, the tricky words, the writing on the cover etc.
- Encourage your child to read daily.
- Act as a positive role model by reading yourself.
- Join the library.
- Give books as gifts.
- Encourage your child to read a variety of texts; fact or fiction.
- **Read anything everywhere** - shop signs, magazines, newspapers, breakfast cereal boxes, e-books, on line information, labels, instructions . . .

Sounds/Spelling

- Primary 1
 - Phonic sounds will be sent home twice per week in a jotter or as a parent prompt and should be practised at home orally and in writing.
 - We will be teaching tricky words in school which we will share with you and we would encourage you to practise these words with your child at home.

- Primary 2 & Primary 3
 - Each week we will be teaching sounds and tricky words in school which we will share with you in a jotter or as a parent prompt and we would encourage you to practise these with your child at home.

- Primary 4 - Primary 7
 - In school, linked to *Active Literacy* and *Big Writing*, we teach grammar/spelling strategies daily. We no longer have weekly spelling "tests" as understanding and applying spelling rules/strategies is far more valuable than memorising words, in the short term and out of context. We want children to be able to transfer spelling skills into written texts. Each week we will share our focus words with you and we would encourage you to practise these words with your child at home.

Numeracy/Maths

- **Number Bonds and Multiplication Tables** - A sound understanding of number bonds and multiplication, together with a quick recall of multiplication tables are key skills. They give children an advantageous position when tackling more complex mathematical concepts both at primary and secondary school.
 - Practice number bonds to 10 (e.g. 2+8, 8+2, 10-2, 2 + □ = 10, □ - 8 = 10 etc)
 - Extend number bonds to 20 and beyond
 - Using objects to practise - blocks, pairs of socks, Lego, counters.
 - Learn the multiplication tables, trying to make it fun - chant, sing, games, phone apps, I pad games, computer games, websites, beat the clock . . .
 - Having learnt the tables do it backwards (as division), out of order, mixed tables
 - Discuss the link between multiplication and by division.
 - Practise multiplying by 10, 100. 1000 which links to understanding of place value.

Take every opportunity to immerse your child in mathematical thinking using links to real life situations e.g. baking and weighing, paying for items in shops, counting the cutlery for teatime, cutting cakes/pizzas into exact fractions, budgeting/saving pocket money, sharing, recording height and weight, measuring area for the new lounge carpet or bathroom tiles . . .

Examples of some other activities which may be given as homework

- Big Talk - discussion activity in preparation for *Big Writing* tasks in school.
- Show and tell linked to topic or class work (P1-P3).
- Learning songs and poems e.g. Scottish poem for Burns celebration, Nativity preparation
- Maths linked to areas being covered in school.
- Research tasks.
- Preparing talks or presentations (P4-P7).
- Recorder practice
- Cycling (P6)

How you can help with homework in general

- Have a suitable place at home to work without distractions.
- Encourage homework routines.
- Talk about your child's homework to support your child but encourage them to complete it independently.
- Praise and encourage as work is being done.
- Encourage your child to complete any written homework task, taking care to present it neatly.
- Discuss the finished task.

We hope this provides you with information and ideas that will help you to support your child's learning.

Torphins Primary School Homework Activities

Year	Weekly	Other
N	Term 1 Active From the Start bags and <i>Show and Tell</i> twice per term Term 2 Library books to share with parent/carer to develop pre reading skills and <i>Show and Tell</i> twice per term Term 3 Personal Challenges Term 4 Transition activities based on Number Zoo etc	
P1	Parent Prompt weekly <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading 1 or 2 books per week • 2 sounds with formation activities • Share tricky words • Share Numeracy Learning Intentions 	Term 3 Scottish Poem Term 3 or 4 Introduce Big Talk Prep Term 3 and 4 <i>Talking Box</i> input
P2	Parent Prompt weekly <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading 1 or 2 books per week • Share 1 sound and tricky words • Share Numeracy Learning Intentions 	Term 3 Scottish Poem Term 3 and 4 <i>Talking Box</i> input per term each
P3	Parent Prompt termly will include numeracy learning intentions Reading 1 book per week Share 1 sound and tricky/common words – pupils copy into jotters Big Talk Prep term 2 onwards	2 individual talks per year Term 3 Scottish Poem
P4	Pupils now responsible for copying into jotter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inside spelling jotter are activity ideas if children wish to do them • Share spelling words and sound – copy into jotter • Big Talk Prep • Reading activity a book per week or class novel • Share Numeracy Learning Intentions – pupils writing into homework diaries • Numeracy prompt or game every few weeks as appropriate 	Block of times tables practice 2 individual talks per year Term 3 Scottish Poem

P5	<p>Pupils responsible for copying into jotter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inside spelling jotter are activity ideas if children wish to do them • Share spelling words and sound– copy into jotter • Big Talk Prep • Reading activity twice per week or class novel work • Share Numeracy Learning Intentions – pupils writing into homework diaries • Numeracy prompt every few weeks as appropriate 	<p>Block of times tables practice 2 individual talks per year Term 3 Scottish Poem Recorder Practice</p>
P6	<p>Pupils responsible for copying into jotter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading or reading related activity - one long or two short or class novel work • Share focus words with rule or VCOP rule – copy into jotter • Big Talk Prep • Numeracy – oral mental agility related activity eg times tables or mental arithmetic practice 	<p>2 individual talks per year - one in Term 4 to be about an area of personal interest Term 3 Scottish Poem Term 3 introduction to independent topic related research Cycling homework</p>
P7	<p>Pupils responsible for copying into jotter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading or related activity or class novel work • Share focus words – copy into jotter • Big Talk Prep • Numeracy as appropriate eg research Fibonacci 	<p>Term 1 topic related research Term 2 WW2 research project 2 individual talks per year Term 3 Scottish Poem Term 4 Enterprise activities</p>