



## Gallions Mount School Home Learning Policy 2017

In addition to home learning provided by the school we strongly believe that some of the best learning your child can experience outside school involves time spent with a parent or carer. Children spend approximately  $\frac{1}{4}$  of their time at school and  $\frac{3}{4}$  of their lives at home or elsewhere.

Why not spend time

- Discussing items of interest in the news
- Playing board or card games together
- Solving puzzles and crosswords
- Visiting the local library
- Practising looking up words in a dictionary or thesaurus
- Practising telling the time and costing the shopping
- Looking up locations on a map or in an atlas
- Trips to Museums, Galleries, the local park etc.....
- Cooking together
- Physical activities involving exercise, such as swimming
- Talking and finding out about the science of everyday life eg dissolving in cooking, how the sun appears to move across the sky, the life cycle of a butterfly, the Water Cycle .....
- Practising practical skills such as cutting and folding paper and weighing and measuring
- Painting, drawing or making things

**Please be positive—success breeds success**

**Please remember—children learn more through play, practical activities and discussions with family members than filling in endless worksheets**

**Help us to help your child**

### ***Building a Community of Life-long Learners***

At Gallions Mount School we believe that homework, which we refer to as **home learning**, has an important role to play in promoting and developing a positive attitude towards life long learning. It is part of the home-school partnership which is so vital if our pupils are to make the best possible progress.

The Government has defined home learning as 'any work or activities which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents or carers'. There is no set amount of homework expected by the Government but guidance for parents and useful websites can be found in their Working Together! pack at [www.education.gov.uk](http://www.education.gov.uk)

A large majority of time is expected to be spent **reading once a day**, with adult support as appropriate. Other work given will include: learning and practising spellings, learning and practising number facts, as well as research projects, reinforce and/or extend work done in class, finding information out about a topic, reading activities such as book reviews etc...

**If Home Learning is to be successful it needs to**

- Support the learning which is happening in school
- Be completed and returned on time
- Be varied, not just written assignments
- Be valued by parents, teachers and pupils
- Be challenging but enjoyable

## What We Will Do

- Keep you informed about what your child is learning in school via each term's newsletter and Parents meetings
- Give home learning which supports the learning done in school
- Give your child feedback on how they are doing. This may take the form of class discussion, sharing good practice with the class, follow up lessons if the home learning demonstrates common difficulties, tests, or individual comments on a child's work
- Give you feedback about your child's home learning achievements at each Parents' meeting, or sooner if we have concerns
- Regularly test your child on the spellings, tables etc they have been asked to learn
- Where appropriate, offer simplified or extended tasks to different ability groups
- Help your child with any queries they have about a particular home learning task
- Run Maths and Literacy events for parents to suggest ways in which you can help at home
- Remind pupils of the deadlines for completing and return home learning
- Provide extra materials eg paper for a poster if this is difficult for you to provide
- Provide parents with a booklet suggesting ways of helping their child in Mathematics
- Run a Home learning club for Year 6 pupils

## What We expect Parents and Carers to Do

We see parental assistance as vital in helping children to gain important skills. We cannot emphasise this too strongly. With this in mind we would hope that parents and carers will

- Read regularly with your child
- Encourage older children to read independently **daily**
- Talk to them about the books they are reading, the plot, characters, predicted outcomes etc...
- Help your child to learn their weekly spellings by testing them and reminding them to practise using LOOK, SAY, COVER, WRITE, CHECK
- Help your child to learn their times tables
- Remind them to complete all tasks and return them on time
- Provide a suitable place where they can do their work
- Support them if they get stuck (but don't do it all for them!)
- Praise and encourage them
- Ensure that the work has been completed to the best of your child's ability
- Communicate any concerns you have to us as soon as possible
- Encourage your child to come and ask for extra teacher input if neither they nor you fully understand the task