



Homework Policy

	Signature	Date
Chair of Committee	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Headteacher	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Committee Approval		<input type="text"/>
Next Review Date		Spring 2023

HOMEWORK POLICY

At Newtown we believe that childhood is fleeting and that we would like children to be out and experiencing as many different opportunities as possible. With this in mind we send home only the minimum amount homework and encourage children to join after school and out of school clubs.

Reading

Before children are able to read for themselves a picture book will be sent home weekly for parents / carers to share with their child. Even when children start the reading scheme parents are encouraged to read their children stories for pleasure as much as possible to foster the life-long love of reading.

As soon as a child is able to decode simple words, children will be given a home reader and a reading card. Staff change the books on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday and expect the children to **read at home at least three times a week**.

When children are more fluent readers and their books are longer they are only changed on a Monday and Friday, we still expect children to **read at home at least three times a week**.

Funky Phonics Initial Sound Homework

When a child is at the early stages of learning the letters, what they look like and what sound they make, parental input is invaluable. At Newtown a book is sent home with the sound or sounds they have learned that day and parents are expected to spend **10 minutes a day** talking to their child about the sound and any words they can think of with the sound in it. If the child is still happy to continue then this can be followed up with pictures of items with the sound in being found in magazines and catalogues and stuck in their book.

Funky Phonics Writing Homework

When a child has learned the sounds, it is important that they start to use them in their writing, one of the ways to do this is through simple dictation. Parents are asked to read simple words from a list and ask their child to sound out the word and write it in their homework book. This helps the child to embed their knowledge of sounds and use them effectively. We expect parents to support children to do this and it should take **10 minutes, once a week**.

Funky Phonics Tricky Word Spellings

Words that cannot be sounded out for writing are taught as 'tricky words' and these need to be learned. Most children have 2 or 3 words a week which are sent home to be learned through the Look-Cover-Write-Check system. Some children who have progressed to the top end of the Funky Phonics scheme will get more words. This should take **less than 5 minutes per day**.

Other Homework

If there is a specific piece of homework that we feel the children would enjoy doing, we may send it home. This will however be on an entirely ad hoc and infrequent basis. Parents are under no obligations to do this with the children. Many children enjoy finding out additional information about the current Creative Learning Topic and staff always encourage independent learning at home.

Review

This policy will be reviewed by Governors and Staff at least every two years.