

Carterhatch



Infant School

The best start in life for all our children - no excuses - no compromise

Home Learning Policy

Implemented: September 23

To be reviewed: Annually

What do we mean by Home Learning?

At Carterhatch Infant School, we believe that learning is a process in which parents/carers are an essential part of a partnership in which they support their children's learning. This partnership consists of school, the child and home.

Children's experiences at home play an important part in their achievement. The support of parents/carers and families significantly influences children's learning and has a lasting effect on the progress they make. We believe that parents/carers need to play an active role in children's activities at home. Even when tasks require them to work independently, they need to know they can ask for help and support from their family.

Throughout the school, the main focus will be on English and Mathematics. In addition, regular reading to and with parents/carers is vital.

All children should read with an adult daily for ten to fifteen minutes. This really can make a difference to your child's fluency, it can provide quality time for you both and encourage a love of books and reading for your child. The children will build up reading mileage by reading new words, discussing what has been read and comparing texts with other books they have read which are similar in some way.

Parents/carers should add comments as well as signing and dating their child's reading diary. Please ensure it is brought to school daily as we strive to hear children read regularly and not just on their book changing days. This will also provide staff with the opportunity to respond to your comments. Books are changed weekly and for some children twice a week. Children will receive a book that links to the phonics level they are working at as well as a book of their choice, both to be shared with you. Reading should be an enjoyable activity for both parent/carer and child at a time when you are both relaxed and not too tired.

This policy will ensure a consistent approach to Home Learning across the school, understood by staff, parents/carers and children.

Home Learning - Different Stages

Early Years (Nursery and Reception) - We encourage parents/carers to be actively involved in learning opportunities with their children. For example, playing games, talking, reading **to your** child, counting, singing, making things and enjoying time together.

Year	Suggested Activities (weekly)
Nursery	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read/share a story with your child for ten minutes each day.• Practise phonics sounds.• Practise counting and saying number names.
Reception	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read for fifteen minutes each day.• Practise phonics sounds.• Practise reading and writing some tricky words.• Read/share your child's individual decodable reading book (Little Wandle)• Practise reading and writing high frequency words (common exceptional words). These words are on our website.• Provide the children with opportunities to count or give a number of things from a larger group.• Recognising how many things are in a group without having to count them.

Year 1 and 2 - We start to develop the children's ability to complete additional homework relating to their learning. However, it is equally important to continue playing games, talking, reading bedtime stories, making things and enjoying time together.

Year	Suggested Activities (weekly)
Year 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read for fifteen minutes each day.• Practise phonics sounds.• Read/share your child's individual decodable reading book (Little Wandle)• Practise reading and writing high frequency words (common exceptional words). These words are on our website.• English or maths tasks set by the Class Teacher.
Year 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read for fifteen minutes each day.• Practise phonics sounds.• Read/share your child's individual decodable reading book (Little Wandle)• Practise reading and writing high frequency words (common exceptional words). These words are on our website• Practise weekly spellings and multiplication tables set by the class teacher.• English or maths tasks set by the Class Teacher.• At times there may be activities related to topic work.

Marking of Home Learning

Our teachers dedicate a large proportion of their time marking and feeding back to children on their learning at school. This is a vital part of ensuring children make the best possible progress. Therefore, work completed at home will not normally be marked to the same degree that work undertaken in school is marked and assessed. Most feedback on home learning may just receive a tick to show that the work has been acknowledged. Other feedback on home learning will be done orally and most often with the whole class or a focussed/guided group.

Home learning tasks will be used to inform the learning that happens in the classroom and the teachers will keep a record of who completes the work and any misconceptions that need to be addressed.

Comments in reading diaries by teaching staff will be recorded one day per week. If the reading diary is not at school on this day it will not be commented upon.

How can parents/carers help?

- Try to provide a reasonably quiet, suitable place for your child to work.
- Ensure that their reading bag is in school each day.
- Make it clear to your child that you value the homework and support us by explaining how it can help your child to learn.
- Check to see if your child has work. Each class teacher will inform you when it is set and when it should be completed.
- Work with your child to complete the task.
- If you are not clear what needs to be done please ask the staff in your child's class.
- Most of all try and enjoy the tasks together.

How can we help?

- Provide you with termly Curriculum webs detailing work and topics that will be covered during the term. These will be e-mailed to you at the end of each term, ready for the next term. Please let the office know if you would like a paper copy.
- Newsletters with summaries of what your child has been learning.
- Website Support e.g. theme webs, high frequency words to practise reading and writing, links and videos to support learning.
- Modelling home learning with the children so they can explain to their parents/carers what the home learning task is.
- Workshops (maths celebration and alike) to help parents/carers support their child at home - Maths, reading, handwriting, phonics.
- Understanding that supporting with work at home may be tricky and therefore ensuring staff are available if necessary to discuss the requirements of home learning tasks.
- Teachers will discuss areas to work on with your child during your termly parents consultations.

Refer to our school website, under the '**How to help your child**' tab.

Information for Staff

In order for our home learning policy to be effective, home learning must:

- Be planned as effectively as lesson planning, including differentiation.
- Complement things children are learning about in school.
- Involve parents/carers in the learning.
- Be clear and precise in expectation.

Monitoring and Evaluating the Home Learning Policy

The Co-Heads or members of the Senior Leadership Team will evaluate samples of home learning from time to time. A staff meeting will be held annually to assess and update the policy if required.