

Shepherds Down Homework Policy – 2020



Through this policy, we aim to:

- Ensure consistency of approach throughout the school;
- Ensure the needs of the individual pupil are taken into account;
- Extend and support the learning experience by consolidating it at home;
- Provide opportunities for parents, children and school to work in partnership;
- Provide opportunities for parents and children to work together to enjoy learning experiences

What do we mean by homework?:

- Suggestions of how to support your child's literacy, numeracy, communication, topic and personal and social targets;

and/or

- Practical activities and games to provide enjoyable learning experiences at home.
- Suggested websites to provide fun opportunities to practice skills at the child's own level e.g. 'busythings'

and/or

- Regular reading opportunities.

We will not be setting formal homework unless there is a specific request from a parent.

Procedure:

We aim to provide a range of homework activities/options which will enable parents to select what is appropriate for their child, if any. These include:

- Half termly topic based ideas that parents can do with their children at home
- Books for shared reading sent home weekly – chosen by the child from the library
- Weekly reading book which matches the child's current reading ability, if appropriate
- Access to the 'Busy Things' website
- Suggestions of other suitable websites for online learning
- Sharing of Individual Learning plans and half term literacy and numeracy plans (if relevant) for parents to support at home if they wish.

Where individual parents make specific requests for additional homework, arrangements will be made by the class teacher, if at all possible.

We also acknowledge that some children are reluctant to participate in any learning activities outside school and wish to avoid this becoming a negative experience for both parents and children. Therefore, whilst our aim is to provide learning suggestions that take the form of fun activities we do not expect all children to participate in homework activities and encourage parents to judge what is appropriate for their child.

Provision of Remote Learning – October 2020



Remote learning is different to homework and will only be provided if a class, group or a small number of children need to self-isolate, or local restrictions require children to remain at home.

In line with the government's stated expectations of special school remote provision we will aim to provide 'specific approaches' tailored to each child's circumstances. We recognise that the children at Shepherds Down have particular needs, which cannot be easily met remotely and will therefore plan for our provision to focus on each child's individual needs with the priority being in relation to communication, personal and social development and core learning, which is outlined in each child's individual learning plan. We have also taken the feedback from parents in relation to home learning, which supports the need for individualised support, combined with the experience gained over the past 6 months to shape the provision we will offer.

As stated by the government we believe that the teachers are best placed to know how each child's needs can be most effectively met to ensure that each child continues to make progress. For the vast majority of children at Shepherds Down school we do not believe that online learning will be the most appropriate method. We believe that they need real, practical activities and learning opportunities that are individualised and continue the targets they are following in school. The remote learning we will provide reflects these beliefs and will primarily be based on the child's current individual learning plan. This has targets based on the child's individual needs in the areas of Cognition, Communication, Personal and Social development and Physical development (if appropriate).

Where remote learning is required we will provide the following:

- A home version of the Individual Learning Plan (ILP), currently being followed in school. This will identify how the identified objectives could be practised, consolidated and generalised at home.
- Appropriate resources to support each child's Individual Home Learning Plan, if required
- Weekly phone calls by the class teacher to families of children not in school, which will enable teachers to review the home learning and respond to the individual needs of each child and family
- A login for each child for the website 'busy things', and suggested topics to cover on it for classes, where appropriate.
- Weekly ideas, such as useful websites, fun activities, sensory activities and ways to consolidate learning at home.
- Weekly opportunities to connect with the class teacher and rest of the class virtually e.g. via Zoom either through a formal shared activity such as 'bucket time' or general catch up/sharing session
- All therapists will include how a programme can be adapted for home and will provide advice and where appropriate virtual support.

We also recognise, that, the vast majority of the children, who attend Shepherds Down school may not be able to access remote education without adult support. Therefore, we will work collaboratively with parents throughout to ensure that what we provide is possible within the home, is meaningful, clear and enables children to continue to make progress when they are not in school, as far as possible.