

El Alsson British International Primary **School**

Homework Policy

Vision & Mission

To develop successful 21st Century Citizens by encouraging the skills and attributes of Thinking, Learning and Caring

Aims and Objectives

At El Alsson School homework is designed to:

- Reinforce skills taught within lessons
- Encourage independent learning skills away from the classroom
- Reinforce the need for time management and organisational skills
- Further develop learning and knowledge from the subjects taught in the classroom
- Assess levels and progress of children
- Provide opportunities for parents to be involved in their child's learning

Philosophy and Ethos

We view homework as being a supported or independent task undertaken, which reinforces, extends or enriches current learning.

At El Alsson School we use a variety of different forms of homework in order to ensure that we are targeting and developing all of these skills with our students.

Having the responsibility of needing to meet deadlines promotes self-discipline, an attribute that will impact on school work and beyond. This is promoted through well-planned homework set by the teacher.

At El Alsson School we strive to avoid using homework as an activity merely to keep the children busy, but as a tool to promote the overall vision of El Alsson School; to support the children becoming successful 21st Century citizens.

Homework in Key Stage 2

Homework involves a range of activities including the following:

On a daily basis the children will be expected to undertake:

- Reading practice and to complete the Reading Log
- Complete their Spelling Log

On a weekly basis they will be expected to complete:

- Literacy Task
- Maths skills task
- MyMaths Homework/only when applicable

Extended Homeworks will be given to the children but these have long term deadlines and will not be on a daily or weekly basis:

- Humanities projects
- Science Projects
- Writing tasks

Literacy Homework

Reading Log

Reading is an important part of a child's learning and should be part of their everyday routine. In school, throughout the week, the children will read as part of their lessons, have time for independent reading and take part in group guided reading. However, it is important that the children are doing extra reading outside of school. As children get older they need to be reading more regularly and for longer periods of time if they are to improve at the correct pace. Below is what we expect the children in Key Stage 2 to read every night:

| <u>Year Group</u> | <u>Expected Reading Time</u> |
|-------------------|------------------------------|
| Year 3 | 15 - 20 Minutes |
| Year 4 | 20 - 25 Minutes |
| Year 5 | 25 - 30 Minutes |
| Year 6 | 30 - 40 Minutes |

After completing their reading, children should then complete the Reading Log and get a parental signature. Teachers are expected to monitor and check all reading logs on weekly basis.

Spelling Log

Spelling Logs are a daily homework. The children are tested and given a level for their spelling. Each week the children have a spelling lesson with their group and will be tested on previous spellings and then taught the new spelling pattern. Children are taught through spelling patterns and should learn to apply the pattern to other words, not just the list of spellings provided.

Children are expected to complete the spelling list every single day. Teachers are expected to monitor and check all spelling logs on a **daily basis**.

Literacy Task

Will consolidate and extend children's learning through a task that focuses on a specific aspect, such as grammar, or combines various key skills.

Accelerated Reader Quizzes

Accelerated Reader is the new programme that we use to monitor, encourage and test pupils in reading in KS2. This system is based primarily around the children's comprehension of the text read, but also tests language and vocabulary. Children should be completing reading books regularly. Once the book is completed, the children then complete the online quiz in school. The more children read and quiz, the more points they receive to move up the levels.

Writing Tasks

Children should be given regular writing tasks. These should be over a number of weeks, not on a daily or weekly basis. The writing task is to reinforce and practise skills taught in the Literacy lessons. It is important for the children to apply the discreet teaching, for example, from the grammar lessons, into their writing and ensure that the skill taught is embedded throughout a lengthier piece of writing.

Maths Homework

Maths skills tasks

Maths skills tasks should be given twice a week. This is to practise the mathematical skills taught within the maths lessons. These will usually be calculation based tasks. Calculation forms the basis for all other mathematical problems and investigations. Children should be practising these skills regularly in order to be able to apply them to problem solving mathematics.

MyMaths Online Learning

MyMaths is an online learning tool that delivers lessons and practice questions to the children based on teaching from the classroom. Children should be completing a MyMaths activity once a week. This could be part of the maths skills task above or as extra depending on the class teacher.

Cross-Curricular Homework

At El Alsson School we do not believe in having teaching and subjects as isolated entities. Therefore, the children use all skills and all subject knowledge across a range of subjects. Children will be required to complete Science and Humanities based projects throughout the year. These will combine a variety of skills; knowledge from the Humanities and Science, reading and writing practice and maths skills practice.

The projects are also a way of encouraging more student-led learning and independent learning skills. The projects are a more open way of the children applying skills taught from a range of subjects, alongside encouraging their time management and planning skills. The projects will be given to the children and they will have a number of weeks to complete the work and meet a deadline set.

Children's project work will be marked using a rubric method, which the children will be given at the beginning of the project, so they know what they are aiming to achieve.

Expectations of the teacher

Continuity across the year group

Across the year groups, although it is not expected that the exact same homeworks need to be given, the year group should:

- Have a homework timetable stuck into each child's record book. This can be different for different classes based on the teacher's timetable but should be followed on a weekly basis.
- The same amounts of homework should be given to every class, e.g. 2 maths homework, writing tasks / projects given out at the same time.
- Teachers discuss the homework and what is to be given to the children each week at their planning meeting.

Planning & Monitoring

- Homework is linked to teaching from the main lessons during the week.
- Homework is explained to the children before sending it home.
- Deadlines for homework allow the children the opportunity to come to the class teacher for help if necessary before the set deadline.
- Homework is marked according to the marking policy and returned to the children.
- Written feedback is given on homework where necessary.
- Work points are given for good work.
- Homework is kept in a folder that will go home so that parents can see teachers' marking and comments.
- Homework is checked regularly and teachers write a note in the record book if homework is incomplete or not to a high standard as expected.
- Teacher to sign or initial record book every time homework is entered into it.

Expectations of parents

At El Alsson School we strive to make the children more independent, in both their learning and as part of their individual personalities.

Children will be provided with a homework timetable at the beginning of the year and this will be stuck into the record book.

Parents have a role in supporting children's efforts. They need to be aware of what homework is set and provide both encouragement and an appropriate environment for completion. They must ensure the homework is completed. A parental signature will indicate this (daily). However, if a child struggles with his/her homework this should be referred to class teacher via a note in the record book.

It is the responsibility of both the child and parent to ensure that homework deadlines are met.