



# GARDEN SUBURB JUNIOR SCHOOL

## Homework Policy

June 2023

## Rationale

At Garden Suburb Junior School, we set homework to consolidate the learning in the classroom and develop a working partnership between school and home. This is a wonderful way for you, as parents, to find out what your child has been working on at school. It allows you to see what they have found challenging and provides an opportunity for you to support them with their learning.

We feel that learning at home is an essential part of a child's education. It enables children to develop the skills and attitudes needed for successful, independent, lifelong learning. Our homework policy is designed to prepare children for the next stage in their learning and it has been designed to allow children time to participate in a range of other enriching after-school activities and leisure pursuits.

The type of homework set varies across the school, depending on the term and the year group. Over their time at Garden Suburb Junior school, the children could be asked to complete a range of different homeworks: e.g. reading comprehension activities, grammar and punctuation tasks, maths tasks, research challenges, topic projects or learning logs. All children are also expected to practise/learn spellings and times tables weekly.

(see appendix 1)

- Reading comprehension activities encourage children not only to read regularly, but to analyse what they are reading and develop their thinking further. They may be asked, for example, to read through a text in preparation for a lesson, familiarizing themselves with new vocabulary or answer questions showing their understanding of a text.
- Grammar/punctuation tasks allow the children to consolidate new learning and practice applying knowledge in written work.
- Maths tasks allow children to consolidate concepts which have been taught in class that week.
- Creating projects facilitates for children to consolidate their understanding of a particular topic and to deliver that understanding in a variety of ways to the rest of the class, for example, by creating a power point to present to the class.
- Learning logs are a unique personalised learning tool for children, where they can record their responses to their learning that day. Each log is a record of the child's own thinking and learning. They are reflective journals for the children to record their knowledge and understanding in whichever way they feel most helpful. The children are expected to log each day something they have found interesting or challenging from that day's learning. They can use pictures, writing, diagrams, labels, bullet points, mind maps or whichever style they wish to present their work and are encouraged to be as creative and as independent as possible. This activity only happens during one term each year. As it is open ended, it enables the outcome of children to be differentiated by attainment. Children are expected to spend twenty minutes each evening, more if desired, on their log.

## **Marking and feedback**

- Homework in Years 3,4 and 5 is set on a **Friday**. They have a week to complete it and bring it to school on the following Friday to share their outcomes with members of the class as well as their class teacher.
- Homework in Year 6 is set **daily** and is handed in the following morning. Homework usually consists of one activity per day. However, on occasion, homework may consist of more than one piece on one night and not on another that week.
- Homework will be addressed using verbal or written feedback from peers and the class teacher.
- English homework will be marked by the class teacher that week and maths homework will be marked by the class teacher during the last maths lesson of the week on Friday.
- Reading records are acknowledged by the class teacher with house points and stickers on a Monday morning.
- House points will be given to praise outcomes and effort.
- During the term in which 'learning logs' are set, a 'learning log of the week' will be chosen and displayed. In this way, we endeavour to develop thinking, problem solving and creativity skills, allowing the children to use their knowledge as a 'consolidation of learning' tool and to encourage them to discuss and share their thinking in a collaborative way.

## **Online learning platform - Showbie**

- Showbie is our online learning platform.
- It enables teachers to upload tasks online for the children to complete at home and for the teachers to provide feedback.
- The children will receive regular tasks to complete using Showbie to practise using the platform, in order to maintain skills in preparation for the possible event of a future school closure.
- We will resort to this platform in the event of an individual class, year group or whole school closure.

## How parents can help at home

Parents play an important role in developing children's confidence, organisation and sense of responsibility by:

- Encouraging and recognising the effort a child has made in completing their homework. As teachers we recognise individual effort as well as the quality of content. It is important that parents also do this by showing an interest and generally getting involved, e.g. listening to reading, through discussion, providing resources, taking them to the library etc.
- Providing a peaceful and suitable place where homework can be done.
- Making it clear that parents also value homework.
- Expecting deadlines to be met and checking they are. Homework should be handed in on the day it is due. It is the responsibility of the parent to sign the homework diary to check homework is complete or to explain the reason if not.
- Assisting with difficulties and giving ideas and guidance where necessary.
- Facilitating for children to have access to technology to complete homework (including Showbie) where appropriate and to monitor this access (as agreed in the online safety policy).

## Appendix One

Year Group	Autumn	Spring	Summer
<b>3</b>	<p>Daily reading</p> <p>Weekly spelling and handwriting practice</p> <p>Weekly grammar/punctuation task</p> <p>Weekly maths task and times tables practice</p> <p>Showbie -how to log in, engage with a range of tasks and respond to teacher feedback</p>	<p>Daily reading</p> <p>Weekly spelling and handwriting practice</p> <p>Weekly grammar/punctuation task</p> <p>Weekly maths task and times tables practice</p> <p>History project linked to Ancient Egypt topic</p> <p>Weekly Showbie task</p>	<p>Daily reading</p> <p>Weekly spelling task (Look, cover, write check) and times tables practice</p> <p>Weekly Learning log</p> <p>Weekly Showbie task</p>
<b>4</b>	<p>Daily reading</p> <p>Weekly spelling and handwriting practice</p> <p>Weekly grammar/punctuation task</p> <p>Weekly maths task and times tables practice</p> <p>Weekly Showbie task</p>	<p>Daily reading</p> <p>Weekly spelling task (Look, cover, write check) and times tables practice</p> <p>Weekly Learning log</p> <p>Weekly Showbie task</p>	<p>Daily reading</p> <p>Weekly spelling and handwriting practice</p> <p>Weekly grammar/punctuation task</p> <p>Weekly maths task and times tables practice</p> <p>History project - Ancient Greek topic</p> <p>Weekly Showbie task</p>
<b>5</b>	<p>Daily reading</p> <p>Weekly spelling and handwriting practice</p> <p>Weekly grammar/punctuation task</p> <p>Weekly maths task and times tables practice</p> <p>Research and pre-learning tasks where relevant</p> <p>Weekly Showbie task</p>	<p>Daily reading</p> <p>Weekly spelling and handwriting practice</p> <p>Weekly grammar/punctuation task</p> <p>Weekly maths task and times tables practice</p> <p>History or geography project - Tudor topic / Brazil</p> <p>Weekly Showbie task</p>	<p>Daily reading</p> <p>Weekly spelling task (Look, cover, write check) and times tables practice</p> <p>Research and pre-learning tasks</p> <p>Weekly learning logs with a maths/grammar theme</p> <p>Weekly Showbie task</p>
<b>6</b>	<p>Daily reading</p> <p>Weekly spelling and handwriting practice</p> <p>Daily Maths and English depending on focus</p> <p>Research and pre-learning tasks</p> <p>Topic specific learning logs</p> <p>Weekly Showbie task</p>	<p>Daily reading</p> <p>Weekly spelling task</p> <p>Daily Maths and English depending on focus</p> <p>Research and pre-learning tasks</p> <p>Practice SATs style questions</p> <p>Regular Showbie task</p>	<p>Daily reading</p> <p>Weekly spelling task</p> <p>Daily Maths and English depending on focus</p> <p>Practice SATs papers</p> <p>Learning words and songs for the production</p> <p>Regular Showbie task</p>

## **Frequently asked questions:**

### **What will happen if my child doesn't do their homework?**

Parents will be issued with a letter reminding them to support their child and the school with homework. Parents are asked to meet with their child's class teacher if they are struggling to complete homework. Continued failure to complete homework could result in your child missing their playtime to complete it.

### **What can parents do if they want more feedback on the homework?**

Ask to speak with your child's class teacher to discuss your child's homework.

### **What can I do if I want my child to do more homework?**

The school has a plethora of homework activities which children can complete at home which complement their learning in school. These activities have been split into subject areas on the school website. Please visit the 'home learning zone' area of the school website to find out more.

### **What can I do if I want my child to do less homework?**

When parents sign our home-school agreement, they agree to our school homework policy. We therefore expect parents to support us and their child, with completing their homework. If your child is finding their homework too hard/easy – there are many ways that we can support you. Ask to speak with your child's class teacher if this is a concern.

### **What can I do if we could not complete the homework on an occasion and I do not want my child getting in trouble?**

Either speak with your child's class teacher, send them an email or write them a note.

### **What can I do if forget our Showbie or TTRockstars login?**

Ask to speak with your child's class teacher – they can give you that information.

### **What can I do if my child has lost their homework, homework diary or reading record?**

Ask to speak with your child's class teacher – they can provide you with new materials. In the meantime, complete the homework, record and diary on paper.