



HEADTEACHER COMMENT

Parents will find our new Homework Policy attached to this newsletter. We are keen to adapt our policies to give the maximum support to the children but also to give parents the opportunity to work with us. We have responded to consultation and feel that we really need to concentrate on the basics of spellings, tables and developing a love for reading. This policy reflects this position. Could you please read through the policy and sign the tear off slip at the bottom of the newsletter. Many thanks.

ATTENDANCE (W.B. 02.05.17) (REMEMBER ABSENCE LINE: 675 4525)

Class	Lates	%Attend	Days Lost		Class	Lates	%Attend	Days Lost
RSBS Otters	0	100	0		RSBS Deer	1	97.5	1
RA	1	94.17	7		3B	1	95.33	7
RM	0	98.75	1.5		3S	1	97.33	4
1B	2	97.5	3		4B	0	95.67	6.5
1F	3	98.75	1.5		4T	0	98.67	2
2B	0	99.17	1		5A	0	95.67	6.5
2P	0	95.42	5.5		5H	2	98.62	2
					6H	0	93.67	9.5
Total	12	97.34	46		6S	2	98	3

Well done to The Otters, 2B and 4B who won the pandas for last week. Thank you for your support, we are now at 96.19% and I remain hopeful that with your help we will get closer to our target of 97%.

NATIONAL TESTS

The children were very sensible and mature about this year's SATs and most of them said they enjoyed the experience. Thank you for your support, as all the children in Year 6 had 100% attendance this week.

BUDGET CUTS

Many parents will be getting mixed messages about the effect of the austerity measures on school budgets. The truth is that the schools overall budget is very close to last year's budget but we now need to pay for additional items. This means that effectively the budget has been massively reduced. Some schools are trying to limit the effect on the education of the children by closing early on Fridays or restricting the services offered by the school. The governors of Hollywood and I will have to think very carefully about how we tackle these issues in the next twelve months. I will do my very best to preserve the ethos of Hollywood and will write to parents if there are any major changes. Of course there maybe a change of direction after the General Election.

SAINSBURYS ACTIVE KIDS VOUCHER

You can no longer collect Active Kids vouchers from Sainsburys, but they can be donated until 30th June. Every voucher counts towards brand new cooking and sports equipment and experiences. If you have any vouchers lying around at home please send them in as soon as you can. Thank you.

GOLDEN MILE TRACK

Parents may have noticed that workmen have been working on the grass pitch. We were lucky enough to win a bid for a new track to go around the pitch, this is an all weather track that will allow children to run all year round.

LIBRARY NEWS

Reminder that the library is now open until 4pm after school for your child to borrow and return books. If they are not already a member then just come along and sign them up. Please use the front office entrance, many thanks from Mrs Haddock.

HSBC BANK (KS2)

The next visit from Miss Howes will be on 15th May then on 19th June, 3rd July and 17th July. Thank you.

SPORTS DAYS

We now have the dates for this year's sports days:

- Years 1 & 2 Tuesday 4th July 9.30am – 11am
- Nursery & Reception Thursday 6th July 9.30am – 11am
- Years 3 & 4 Friday 7th July 9.30am – 11am
- Years 5 & 6 Monday 10th July 1.30pm – 3pm

SEASIDE THEMED MEAL

We will be holding a seaside themed meal on Thursday 18th May. The menu will include battered fish, cheese pasty, garden peas, pickled onions, chips or crusty roll followed by iced ring doughnut and watermelon. Please book your child in on Parentpay if they want a meal. The price is £2.05 per child.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MAY

Week commencing 15th May

- Year 2 SATs week

Week commencing 22nd May

- My Money Week

Friday 26th May

- End of Half Term – children break up at normal time

JUNE

Monday 5th June

- Children return to school

Week commencing 12th June

- Year 1 Phonics Screening

Wednesday 15th June

- Induction meeting for new parents 10am & 6pm

Thursday 29th June

- Summer Music concert

JULY

Tuesday 18th July

- Year 6 Leaver's performance at 7pm

Thursday 20th July

- Year 6 Prom 4.30pm – 7pm

Friday 21st July

- End of Summer Term – children break up at 1.30pm

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

“Sometimes greater danger comes from success and praise than from criticism. If we learn to handle criticism well, it can strengthen us and help us become aware of flaws in our work.”

Robert Greene

Many thanks

Mr. S. Dix
(Headmaster)

Homework Policy

I have received the School's new Homework Policy.

Signed _____ Parent / Carer

Child's Name _____ Child's Class _____

Please sign and return to your child's teacher.

Hollywood Primary School



Homework Policy

Date Reviewed	March 2017
Date Approved	March 2017
Date for Next Review	March 2019
Date Distributed	March 2017

Hollywood Homework Policy

The Purpose of Homework

The school has consulted with staff, parents and the children to formulate a homework policy that is, as far as possible, a reflection of the shared values we hold about how to best nurture the potential of every child. These are the key elements of the shared philosophy that have emerged.

- Homework should always be purposeful and relevant to the children's learning.
- Homework should be clearly explained, with expectations and instructions for completion made explicit for children and parents.
- Homework should always be acknowledged and feedback given to the children.
- Homework should never be onerous and cause stress to already busy families.
- Homework should strike a balance between the development of core skills (reading, spelling, mental maths) and more 'inspirational' open ended tasks which give the pupils chance to develop specific areas of interest.
- Homework should develop a sense of responsibility and independence.

Aims

Through this policy we aim to:

- Ensure that parents and staff are clear about what children in each age group are expected to do.
- Ensure consistency of approach throughout the school.
- Use homework as a tool to help continue to raise standards of attainment.
- Improve the quality of the learning experience offered to pupils and to extend it beyond the classroom environment.
- Provide opportunities for parents, children and the school to work together in partnership in relation to children's learning.
- Encourage pupils and their parents to share and enjoy learning experiences together.
- Reinforce work covered in class by providing further opportunities for individual learning.
- Help pupils to practise or consolidate basic skills and knowledge, especially in Numeracy, Literacy.
- Encourage children to develop the responsibility, confidence and self-discipline needed to study independently.

Expectations

Governmental recommendations for the appropriate amount of time spent doing homework activities are as follows:

Foundation Stage – up to 1 hour
Years 1 and 2 - 1 hour per week
Years 3 and 4 - 1.5 hours per week
Years 5 and 6 - 30 minutes per day

We feel that this is generally an appropriate amount of homework to expect from children at these phases. However, we also acknowledge that children and families can often have very busy times and homework should be flexible enough to work around this. Homework should contribute to the overall holistic development of the child and not prevent children and families from doing any extra activities at any time.

With this in mind, we propose that there should be a balance of homework that consolidates core skills with more open ended, inspirational tasks. We feel that if the homework engages then more children will enjoy it and relish further opportunities to spend time producing work of quality.

Tasks

There will be four strands to the homework that children will receive:

- Core skills – Spellings & Times-tables
- Reading
- Independent learning

Core skills Homework

The children have weekly spelling and also have times-tables that they learn each week. We think that it is important that the children work on the spellings and tables that they have struggled with in-between the weekly tests.

Reading

Reading is a vital key skill and it is important that children practise and consolidate the reading skills taught in school, as part of literacy lessons and guided reading, at home. There is an expectation that children will read to parents at home and bring in their reading diaries to be checked by the teacher on a regular basis. It is essential that children continue to read aloud to parents even when they read fluently as it gives the opportunity to ask searching questions to test their deeper understanding of the text.

Independent learning Homework

To reflect the schools focus on developing the children as independent learners we would like to offer the children the opportunity to study in a more in depth way at home and follow their own particular interests.

This homework will be optional with is no stipulated quantity to be produced. The hope is that children will be inspired to complete many of the tasks and enjoy the opportunity to deepen their learning about certain areas of the topic they are currently studying.

House points will be awarded to those children who produce 'independent learning' homework to acknowledge their extra efforts and to encourage them to follow their particular academic interests outside of the classroom.

Communication

The core skills homework will be set weekly and clear expectations for its return will be clearly written on the homework. However, because of different routines in different classrooms there will not be a set day on which all homework is to be set and returned. All teachers will inform parents about their preferred days for setting and receiving homework and plenty of notice will be given for all homework.

Inclusion

Treating each and every child as a unique learner is something which Hollywood prides itself on. Therefore, we are committed to making sure that all homework can be accessed by every child and is appropriate for them.

In setting core skills homework class teachers are expected to pitch the level of tasks correctly for all children. Therefore this kind of homework will need to be differentiated for different ability levels. As for the homework that involves pupil choice, there will always be tasks to choose from at different ability levels so that children can ideally choose tasks appropriate for themselves, or be guided towards appropriate tasks by teachers.