

The Rookeries Carleton J, I  
& N School

# The Rookeries Carleton J, I & N School

Homework Policy



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**Next Review Date: September 2020**

# The Rookeries Carleton J, I & N School

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## Homework Policy

At The Rookeries Carleton Junior, Infant and Nursery School we believe that homework is an important part of our children's learning and involves parents, teachers and children in a partnership aimed at raising standards of achievement. There is an expectation that homework will be completed but we will not enforce children to do so.

### Aims

Our aims for giving homework are:

- To contribute to raising pupils individual achievements and self esteem
- To develop a positive partnership between school and home in the education of our children.
- To promote learning as something that continues outside school.
- To consolidate and extend work undertaken in the classroom.
- To encourage further learning and train pupils to be responsible for their study skills.

In order to achieve these aims, homework is set regularly throughout the school, gradually increasing in quantity and complexity as the children get older. The following programme will begin in the Autumn Term.

### EYFS (Reception)

**Reading** – reading books will be given when appropriate

**Phonic work** – daily short task linked to 'Letters and Sounds'

**Rainbow Maths target** – tested twice weekly

### Year 1

**Reading** – reading books will be changed when appropriate

**Spelling/Phonic work** – information will be given about the phonics being covered every half term so they can be practised at home

**Rainbow Maths target** – tested twice weekly

**Topic** – a half termly task will be set relating to the class topic

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### Year 2

**Reading** – reading books will be changed when appropriate

**Spelling** – weekly test

**Mathematics** – will begin in Spring term

**Rainbow Maths target** – tested twice weekly

**Topic** - a half termly task will be set relating to the class topic and optional weekly tasks.

### Year 3

**Reading** – reading books will be changed when appropriate

**Spelling** - fortnightly test

**Mathematics/Literacy** - alternate weekly follow up task from the lesson

**Rainbow Maths target** – tested twice weekly

**Topic** - a termly task will be set relating to the class topic

### Year 4

**Reading** – reading books will be changed when appropriate

**Spelling** - fortnightly test

**Mathematics/Literacy** - alternate weekly follow up task from the lesson

**Rainbow Maths target** – tested twice weekly

**Topic** - a termly task will be set relating to the class topic

### Year 5

**Reading** – reading books will be changed when appropriate

**Spelling** - fortnightly test

**Literacy** – a weekly follow up task from the lesson

**Mathematics** - a weekly follow up task from the lesson

**Rainbow Maths target** – tested twice weekly

**Times Tables** – tested weekly

**Topic** - a termly task will be set relating to the class topic

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### Year 6

**Reading** – reading books will be changed when appropriate

**Spelling** - fortnightly test

**Literacy** – a weekly follow up task from the lesson

**Mathematics** - a weekly follow up task from the lesson

**Rainbow Maths target** – tested twice weekly

**Times Tables** – tested weekly

**Topic** - a termly task will be set relating to the class topic

### Half Termly/Termly Topic Task

Children in Years 1 to 6 will be given a topic task every term or half term. This will consist of an activity you can do together at home. The aim of the task is to engage and inspire the children to use their thinking skills, research skills, problem solving skills and imagination.

Example of Year 4 topics:

**Topic: Vikings.** Children will research longboats and then make their own Viking Longboat which we will then sail in our Viking Regatta.

**Topic: Ancient Egypt.** Children will choose an aspect of life in Ancient Egypt and produce a model (pyramids, canopic jars, mummies, shaduf etc). These will be put on display in our museum.

### Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring will be done by subject leaders who will report to the Senior Leadership Team.

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### What does homework include?

Homework can include a wide range of activities. Here are some things your child may be asked to do:

- Reading to a family member
- Listening to a family member reading or telling stories.
- Reading silently for pleasure or information.
- Visiting the library
- Learning by heart: multiplication tables, spellings, rhymes, songs.
- Read, learn and recite poems
- Collecting information from family members, books, television or from observations.
- Family outings to places of interests.
- Cooking.
- Playing games e.g Snakes and Ladders, I-Spy.
- Developing physical skills e.g. throwing and catching.
- Practical Maths activities e.g. measuring
- Musical activities.
- Science and Maths investigations.
- Pursuing personal interests
- Handwriting practice.
- Drawing and art activities.
- Simple craft and technology activities.
- Consolidating number facts.
- Writing activities e.g. letters, cards.
- Growing things



You probably do many of these things already. They do count as homework if the school sets this sort of task for your child.

### Should parents help with homework?

Yes – all primary school pupils need regular help with their homework. Read with your child. Play games with your child and other family members. Older children also need support but should be able to work more independently as they mature. You can help in different ways:

**Find a good time** - competing with T.V., sport or clubs can make things difficult.

**Find a good place** - somewhere reasonably quiet with a table and chair is a good start.

**Find the right tools** - pencil, paper, pen, crayons; rubber, dictionary and thesaurus should cover every eventuality.

**Find out the time scale** - how long should the homework take? When is the homework due back at school?

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### Best Homework Websites

#### Ages 3 - 6

- CBeebies: This colourful website has everything – games, craft ideas, recipes and music. Many of the activities link to popular TV shows, and we love the video singalongs!
- Q Bee: Most activities on this website have a learning element and use numbers, letters or shapes alongside fun characters. There is plenty to keep children occupied, and they can even send in their artwork for publication on the website!

#### Ages 7-12

- Bizzikid: This site has child-friendly links for all major subjects, as well as games, jokes and an online club. Kids will like the website's friendly character who guides them through every step, and parents' questions are covered in the 'Grown Ups' section.
- BBC Primary School: The BBC's primary school site breaks down the curriculum by topic and offers a variety of different ways to learn.
- Homework Elephant: An impressive resource for every subject and assignment your child is likely to face (if only this existed when we were at school!). Children can search by subject or leave a question for the 'Agony Elephant' to answer later. The homework hints and tips are particularly useful (they can't guarantee your children will listen, but there is some good advice).
- Natural History Museum: Most major museums have children sections on their websites, and this is one of the most interactive. Games and fact files are linked with the current exhibitions, and children can take a virtual visit to the museum via the 'Antcam' and intriguing 'Flesh eating beetlecam'.
- NASA For Kids: Space buffs will love the NASA website. There is information for children of all ages, with footage from Mars and the International Space Station, interviews with astronauts and news on the latest launches. There are also games and craft activities for younger children.

#### Maths websites

##### BBC Bitesize

Trust the 'Beeb' to always have your back. The national broadcaster's [Bitesize](#) site is definitely one of the best websites to visit if you're looking for free maths homework help online. With its colourful and engaging online 'class clips' that explain almost every mathematical concept in the curriculum, your child

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will really enjoy working on Bitesize. Additionally, the resources are sorted by Key Stage and cater for the English, Scottish, Welsh and Northern Irish curriculums.

### **Math is Fun**

Don't let the American spelling fool you. [Math is Fun](#) is a simple site with simple exercises, but it's very useful for parents looking for free homework help online for their child. While this site's lessons don't utilise online videos like Bitesize does (they are mainly comprehensive text-based explanations), there are some very useful activities for testing whether children have picked up the material. Additionally, Math is Fun has both printable worksheets and fun mathematical games available.

### **Primary Maths Arena**

This site is best when your kids have done their homework but you want them to do a little bit extra while also having a little bit of fun. [Primary Maths Arena](#) is one of best free sites for online maths games. All the games are bright, colourful and fast-paced, plus children have the opportunity to play against other students. Our two favourite games are Multiplication Grand Prix and Jet Ski Addition. Honestly, this is one of the best ways to help your kids sharpen up their skills at home, as they won't even realise they're doing something educational. Who says maths has to be boring?

### **NRICH**

Founded by a group of teachers affiliated with the University of Cambridge, [NRICH](#) is a site that aims to provide enriching (get it?) activities and free online homework help for children of all ages and levels. It's a great online resource to help children who wish to become more skilled at maths or need help with higher level maths homework. Each maths question posed is accompanied by a step-by-step explanation, so if a child gets stuck, they can review the problem and get a breakdown on how to get the answers. NRICH also encourages children to actively engage in problem-solving and is great for children that need help further understanding mathematical concepts. We're big fans of NRICH at Whizz HQ because like us they're big believers in providing maths problems that are accessible to children of all abilities while simultaneously challenging high achievers.