

Ark Castledown Primary Academy

Home Learning

Believe and Achieve



At Ark Castledown Primary Academy we set challenging targets for our pupils and support them in achieving their goals. We ensure that our practice and the provision we offer is based on the latest educational research. We expect all children to work hard throughout the school day and therefore their time outside school should principally be for extra-curricular activities, rest and relaxation.

We also believe that a carefully balanced home learning programme is beneficial for children for the following reasons:

- To give parents opportunities to be directly involved in their child's learning.
- To reinforce the partnership between home and school.
- To consolidate skills learnt in school and give opportunities to extend learning.

This policy outlines our commitment to home learning.

Our commitment to the **digital strategy.**

This year we have provided all pupils in Year 3 to Year 6 with a home device. This device is to be used for Home Learning; including Mathletics, Reading Eggs and Accelerated Reader.



Homework vs Home Learning

Quite a bit of research has been done over the decades on **homework** and the evidence is fairly clear in terms of the type of home learning that has a positive impact on pupil learning and the type of work set that does not.

What works?

When home learning works best, pupils are allowed opportunities to 'prepare' for a topic or area of learning, complete a project and/or read around it, following their own lines of enquiry or interests. This type of Home Learning encourages pupils to develop independence and a love of knowledge. They find things out for themselves and therefore have a far greater ownership over what they have learnt.

Some aspects of learning simply need practice, such as reading and recalling facts. These are incorporated into our approach ensuring that our pupils develop an independent approach to learning, whilst also consolidating key facts, and practicing skills.

One of the key indicators of a pupil's success at Primary School is the level to which parents and carers engage in what their child is learning.

How can parents support Home Learning?

Parents have an important role to play in supporting this approach to Home Learning. Simply sending your child to their

room with a pencil and their homework book or laptop does not work. For our pupils to achieve success we need parents to take an interest in what their children are learning.

Here are some tips from the Department for Education as to how parents can best support their children;

- **Experiences:** Try and link life and leisure experience to your child's school work e.g. visits to the park, museum or days out.
- **Make Time:** your child will benefit from you taking an interest in what they are doing.
- **Talk:** Make time to ask your child about what they are studying and what they have learned.

Another great way to show you are interested is to attend school activities such as parents' evenings and sport events.



How much Prep or Home Learning should my child be doing?

The amount of time that your child spends completing Prep and Home Learning will vary, however as rough guidance:

KS1 - Years 1 and 2: Between 10 and 20 minutes per evening reading aloud. Also available are Mathematics and Reading Eggs for your children.

KS2 Years 3 to 6: 60 minutes a week accessing Mathematics and Reading Eggs. Children are also expected to read daily.

