



## Thomas Hickman School

### Homework Policy

Adopted by Governors Full GB:

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Date of last review:

January 2022

Date of next review:

July 2023

Signed: .....

Date: .....

Chair of Governor

### **Preamble**

In response to the success of online learning during Lockdown, Google Classroom was trialled in Autumn 2021 as a platform for all homework. The school had invested heavily in Chromebooks during the pandemic, additionally supported by the DfE, and felt it appropriate to maximise this resource for home learning.

This policy has been written in response to the Google Classroom Homework Survey in December 2021, carried out after the trial period.

### **Introduction:**

In line with National Curriculum requirements, homework is set and children are encouraged to, and expected to establish good homework habits from the beginning of their school life.

The main focus of homework will be Maths and English, with occasional tasks to extend and enhance learning across the curriculum.

We aim for homework to be manageable for all concerned; we understand that parents/carers are involved in this support. However, if homework becomes a chore/burdensome or a source of conflict in the home, speak to the classteacher who can offer support. We provide a weekly Homework Club as part of our enrichment timetable for this very reason, but it is limited to 15.

Our homework timetable has been set to take into consideration blended families/children whose parents live in separate homes and have weekend visits. We also know that family time at weekends is busy and 'catching up' on homework on a Sunday night is not conducive for a good start to the learning week.

If children fail to complete their homework, they are not 'punished' – this does not fit in with our Hand on Heart approach. However, they will be encouraged to complete the homework in their 'own time' at school i.e. playtime or lunchtime with an adult supporting.

Additionally, discreet records are kept and if a child consistently fails to complete and return tasks; this will be discussed with the child and their parents.

To repeat the core aim of homework, it is to encourage and establish good habits of home learning from the beginning of their school life; in secondary school and further education, homework cannot be avoided – let's work together to get them prepared.

### **Operational Homework support**

- Thomas Hickman School provides each child, from Nursery to Year 6, with a Google Classroom login to access homework that is being set. In addition to this they have a login for either Numbots or TT Rockstars.
- Each class have been allocated 10 Chromebooks to allow children who are without a device at home to borrow to complete homework tasks.

- Children are provided with a Homework Jotter – this is an operational ‘paper tool’ to support homework. It is for useful jottings, calculations and spelling practise. It also gives an opportunity to have a break from the ‘screen’. These books are not monitored by the classteacher.

### The Homework Timetable

We believe that homework benefits pupils by:

- reinforcing concepts and skills taught in school;
- enabling pupils to revisit aspects of the curriculum;
- encouraging children to read to their parents/carers;
- providing an opportunity for parents/carers to become involved in their child’s learning;
- helping to demonstrate to children that learning can take place in many environments;
- promoting learning at home as an essential part of good education;
- helping children and young people to develop skills and attitudes they need for successful lifelong learning;
- supporting the development of independent learning skills, including the habits of enquiry and investigation.

<u>Year Group</u>	Reception – Year 6	
<u>Homework:</u> <u>Day Set</u>	<p>All Homework goes live on Google Classroom on a <b>Friday @3.30pm</b></p> <p>* (term time only)</p>	<p>Class teachers will set an English and Maths task on Google Classroom.</p> <p>Weekly spellings will be set on Google Classroom for the children to learn. A copy of these spellings will also be stuck in their Homework Jotter.</p> <p>Children will be given an achievable spelling target and tested on these words in class as appropriate to their stage of learning. Spelling Tests will take place on a Friday.</p> <p>Children who are in Read Write Inc phonics lessons will have practice videos posted on their Google Classroom to watch at home.</p> <p>**As part of o <b>Flying Start Curriculum</b> each Field of Study will have a ‘Home Learning page’ which will be displayed on their Google Classroom. Expectations are that at least 3 activities will be completed over the half term</p>

		and submitted via Google Classroom.
<b><u>Homework:</u></b> <b><u>Day due in</u></b>	All Homework is due to be completed, submitted by the following <b><u>Thursday @ 3.30pm</u></b>	

\*It is not our policy to give homework over the holidays and half term breaks.

\*\*Sometimes teachers may send specific tasks to support the learning of the children but this will be discussed with parents.

### **Reading for Pleasure**

We want all our THS BIRDS to develop a love of reading. We all enjoy doing things we are good at and we know that the more children read, the better they get at reading and the better they get at reading, the more they read!

Please encourage your child to engage in reading daily at home – they can read their books from school, books from home, newspapers, magazines, non-fiction, graphic novels...the list is endless, we just want them to enjoy reading! Alternatively, they can listen to someone reading to them or even enjoy an audio/online book.

Please record that your child has been reading at home in their Reading Record.

### **Feedback**

All children receive prompt feedback on their homework in a variety of forms such as:

- verbal
- written (via Google Classroom, either personally or as a group)
- class discussion

### **Differentiation/Reasonable adjustments**

It may be necessary to provide differentiated tasks/reasonable adjustments to suit different abilities and to meet the requirements of all pupils. Providing these adjustments will also make it possible for the homework task to be completed independently. There will be instances when the same homework task will be suitable for all pupils.

### **Special educational needs**

It is the responsibility of the class teacher to set appropriate homework for all pupils and to provide tasks that can be undertaken independently. Whenever necessary, the class teacher should provide differentiated tasks for pupils with special educational needs, any reasonable adjustments to homework need to be recorded on their Pupil Support Plan.

The SENDCO/SENTA should liaise closely with class teachers to co-ordinate homework tasks for pupils who may receive extra support

If you have any questions or comments regarding the homework, please contact your child's class teacher on [dl@thomashickman.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:dl@thomashickman.bucks.sch.uk)



## Child agreement for Home Learning on Google Classroom

### **Online Home Learning Guidelines for Pupils**

#### **General reminders of keeping safe online (see THS website for more guidance)**

I want to stay safe online and I know that anything I do on the computer, phone, tablet or internet may be seen by someone else.

I will:

- only open pages which my parent, carer or teacher has said are okay
- talk to my parent, carer or teacher before using anything on the internet that I'm unsure about
- tell my parent, carer or teacher if anything makes me feel scared or uncomfortable
- make sure all the messages I send and comments I leave are polite and positive
- tell my parent, carer or teacher if I get a nasty message or something makes me feel uncomfortable, and I will not reply
- not give my phone number or address to anyone online.
- not tell people about myself online (I will not tell them my name, anything about where I live or where I go to school, names of clubs I attend)
- not upload photographs of myself onto the computer or internet without my parent or carer's permission
- keep any passwords I have private
- only speak to people I know online and on the phone.
- never agree to share photos, phone, video call or meet a stranger.
- Always make sure my parent/carers knows who I am talking to or messaging.



### **Google Classroom – the safe way to use it**

- When using Google Classroom, the teacher may let pupils comment, or they may have turned comments off.
- If you are allowed to comment you must remember our BIRDS behaviours – these apply to online behaviour too.
- Remember to be polite and positive and comments should only ever be related to your learning.
- Remember - teachers can see exactly who posts what on Google Classroom.
- If your teacher wants you to create a post, for example taking a picture of your Home Learning Project, they will enable you to create posts for that time.
- If you are posting photos of your learning, please remember to do so safely – remember to always check with your parent/carers before uploading a photo, and try to make sure your photo is of the learning, not you.
- If it is a photo of you, you must be suitably dressed and in a suitable location

### **UNACCEPTABLE USE**

Examples of unacceptable use include, but are not limited to

- Creating or sending any messages or comments that might upset other people.
- Using another person's username and password e.g. to access a device or website.
- Looking at, or changing work that belongs to other people without their permission.
- Wasting time or resources on school computers.
- Sharing pictures or making video calls without checking with your parent/carers



## Parent/Carer agreement for Home Learning on Google Classroom

### Online Home Learning Guidelines for Parents and Carers

- Make sure your child understands and is aware of the pupil guidelines.
- Answer the phone to school staff or return calls, messages or emails. Staff may call from withheld numbers if not calling from school.
- Supervise your child's internet use and online learning – make sure you are aware of what they have been asked to do and the websites they need to access.
- Make sure you know who your child is talking to or messaging. If a member of staff calls to speak to your children – check that you know who they are, speak to the member of staff yourself before your child talks to them, stay in the room while your child is on the phone.

### Guidelines for All Video Calls and Video lessons

- The parent or carer must make sure their child and other members of the household are aware the video call is happening.
- Staff, children and other members of the household must wear suitable clothing (pyjamas aren't suitable)
- Devices used should be in appropriate areas, for example, **not in bedrooms** and where possible be against a neutral background.
- Language must be professional and appropriate at all times, including any family members in the background.
- The same expectations apply for remote teaching and conversations as per normal school conduct.
- Staff will only ever video call a pupil with prior agreement with parents and the Headteacher, Deputy or Assistant Head.
- Video calls will always be at a pre-arranged time. The times of all video calls and lessons will be published on Google Classroom and logged.

### Additional information for Live 1:1 Lessons

- Parents will need to appear on screen at the start of the lesson to confirm they give consent for their child to be part of the group conversation. The parent or carer must stay in the room. An agreement will be made by teacher and parent/carers as to whether or not the session will be recorded.
- Staff will only ever video call a pupil with prior agreement from parents and the Headteacher, Deputy or Assistant Head.
- This will be at a pre-arranged time and day.

### Additional information for Live Group Lessons

- If your child takes part in a group video conversation, they can be seen by their teacher and the other pupils. They can also potentially be seen and heard by members of other pupils' households that are part of the conversation.
- Parents will need to give consent for their child to be part of a group video lesson.
- Parents will need to appear on screen at the start of the lesson to confirm they give consent for their child to be part of the group conversation.
- If the teacher has any concerns about children (or other members of the household) using unsuitable language, dress or location, the conversation will be ended and concerns will be recorded and passed to the Headteacher or Deputy Head
- Live classes should be kept to a reasonable length of time and should take place during normal lesson times.

