Homework Policy

September 2026

1. RATIONALE

It is the policy of Caton Primary School that all pupils should receive homework in order to consolidate and extend the work done in the classroom. Homework helps to develop an effective partnership between school and parents and provides a means whereby parents can monitor their child's progress. As the children grow older, homework also helps to develop the confidence and self-discipline that pupils will need to study on their own as they move on to secondary school.

Whilst we firmly believe that homework is an important aspect of pupils' education, we recognise that young children have many interests and pastimes and we therefore aim to ensure that the time required to complete homework does not impinge on other aspects of the child's life.

Parents are encouraged to set aside space where their child can work without noise, television or other disturbances and to actively support their children. We ask that parents set aside time each evening to read for at least 15-20 minutes with their child or, in the case of older children, to check that their child has carried out their reading homework. Time spent listening, talking, reading, explaining and encouraging your child is time well spent.

2. HOMEWORK EXPECTATIONS BY YEAR GROUP

Reception

A lot of the homework in Reception is based around talk and discussion with children, it is very informal and little and often is always the best way. The following homework is highly recommended in order to help children make the best possible progress and get the most out of the lessons and learning opportunities in school and to get into a positive routine.

- 15 minutes of reading every day, including Saturday and Sunday; this may be reading to your child for some of this time, but encourage them to read independently once they bring home phonic based reading books.. Reading records are to be signed by parents or carers to confirm that this has taken place.
- Weekly show and tell, the children will be given a theme closely linked to what the class is learning about. The children are to prepare something to share with the rest of the class based on the learning log for the class.
- When children begin their phonics they will bring home a letter daily to practise saying out loud and develop recognition; this practice is key in their early reading.

Year 1 and Year 2

- At least 15 minutes of reading every day, including Saturday and Sunday. Reading records to be signed by parents daily to confirm that this has taken place.
- Phonics support and practice.
- Regular number bonds practice.
- Five spellings to learn each week for a test for Year 2.

Key Stage 2

- At least 20 minutes of reading every day, including Saturday and Sunday. Reading records to be signed by parents daily to confirm that this has taken place.
- Five spellings to learn each week for a test.
- In Year 3 and Year 4, ten minutes of times tables practice daily plus one weekly comprehension assigned on a Monday and to be handed in and marked on a Friday.
- In Year 5 and Year 6, one Maths and one English homework each week to consolidate what has been learnt in class.

Additional learning homeworks may be sent from time to time in all year groups e.g. for extra handwriting practice / learning lines for school productions / class assemblies.

3. FURTHER INFORMATION

Reading: Research carried out by the Institute of Education has proven that children who regularly read for pleasure are likely to do significantly better at school than their peers, not just in English but in Maths and other subjects too. In fact, the research has proven that **there is a difference in reading performance equivalent to just over a year's schooling between young people who never read for enjoyment and those who read for up to 30 minutes per day.** Reading widely not only increases vocabulary and general knowledge but it also develops life skills such as empathy, humility and understanding of others. Sharing books with your child is a vital part of their education. Reading to them, with them, questioning them and listening to your child read should form part of your daily routine.

Spellings: The National Curriculum includes a word list for each year group. It is these words that will be sent home to learn for the weekly test. Spelling patterns will be taught in class and will not form part of set homework.

Maths: Quick recall of number bonds and times tables facts builds confidence and provides firm foundations for success in many aspects of maths.