Supporting Learning at Home – Our Approach

At Hadrian Park Primary School, we believe children thrive when learning is supported both in school and at home. Simple activities such as reading together, talking about learning and showing interest in school life help build confidence, language skills and a positive attitude to learning.

Research shows that formal homework in primary school has a limited impact on academic outcomes, particularly for younger children. Organisations such as the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) highlight that light, purposeful activities (such as reading or practising key skills) are most effective, while excessive homework can reduce enjoyment and motivation.

For this reason, all homework opportunities that we provide are optional.

While as a school we celebrate academic achievement, we also strongly value time spent on:

Sports and physical activity

Creative arts and hobbies

Family time

Building social skills, independence and wellbeing

Our aim is to offer flexible opportunities that support learning without adding pressure, allowing families to choose what best suits their child.

Key Stage 1

Children in Key Stage 1 are given access to the following optional homework opportunities:

Commando Joe (COJO)
Commando Joe homework grids are sent home termly and are linked to pupils learning for that term. These provide practical, creative activities that support teamwork, resilience, confidence and problem-solving.

Reading and Phonics

- Reading diaries are sent home and changed weekly.
  - Our expectation is that children read three times per week with an adult.
- Oxford Owl books and quizzes are set weekly for children on the phonics programme.
- QR codes to support phonics are shared regularly and Phonics packs are sent home at May half term to support Year 1 children in preparation for the Phonics Screening Check.

Online Learning Platforms

- Times Table Rockstars (TTRS) logins are sent home.
- Purple Mash logins are sent home.
- Learning with Parents log in sent home to document Reading for Pleasure opportunities.
- Children are encouraged to access these platforms to practise key skills in an engaging way.

Key Stage 2

Children in Key Stage 2 are given access to the following optional homework opportunities:

Commando Joe (COJO)

Commando Joe homework grids are sent home termly and are linked to pupils learning for that term. These provide practical, creative activities that support teamwork, resilience, confidence and problem-solving.

Reading and Phonics

- Pupils are encouraged to have a home reading book, this may be a book of their own, a book from the school library or a book from their class library collection.
  - Our expectation is that children read three times per week independently or with an adult.
- All pupils have access to Reading Plus, our chosen online reading platform.

Online Learning Platforms

- Times Table Rockstars (TTRS) logins are sent home.

Useful Homework Websites

- Children are encouraged to access these platforms to practise key skills in an engaging way or explore the wider curriculum.
- BBC Bitesize (KS2) - https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/primary
- Primary Homework Help - https://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk
- National Geographic Kids - https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/
- Scratch (KS2 suitable) - https://scratch.mit.edu

Screen-Free Alternatives

- **Storytelling**

Encourage children to retell a story in their own words, make up a new ending, create a story based on a picture or an object.

- **Real-life writing tasks**

Shopping lists, Cards and letters, Instructions or recipes, Short diary entries or holiday recounts.

- **Times tables on the go**

Chant tables in the car, use flashcards, quiz while walking or waiting.

- **Cooking and baking**

Measure ingredients, discuss fractions ($\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{4}$, doubles, halves), compare weights and volumes.

- **Shopping maths**

Estimating costs, adding totals, calculating change.

- **Talk about the world**

Read newspapers or child-friendly news, discuss local and global events.

- **Nature observation**

Go for walks and spot plants, insects or weather changes, keep a simple nature journal.

- **Hands-on investigations**

Grow plants, Melt/freeze experiments, Shadow investigations.

- **Drawing, painting and craft**

Encourages creativity, fine motor skills and focus.