



**GREAT FINBOROUGH
CHURCH PRIMARY**

Homework Guidance

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Great Finborough Church Primary

Homework Guidance

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Our feeling at Great Finborough is that our pupils should not be set regular homework.

Young children spend a considerable amount of time at school and by the time they get home there isn't much left of their day. There is so much more to fit in out of school that is crucial to developing well rounded, happy, healthy individuals that we are reluctant to further extend their formal learning by imposing regular homework.

Mental Health

Children need to balance their learning with relaxation, family time and an opportunity to pursue their own interests and passions. We would like our pupils to develop a sustainable balance between studying and relaxation that will protect their mental and physical health as they grow and develop. At Gt. Finborough we recognise and value the skills children develop beyond school and offer a wide range of enrichment opportunities to encourage and broaden their development.

Impact

In our experience homework can have mixed impact on children and families. On the one hand it can involve parents in the child's learning, develop independent study skill and consolidate and extend their understanding of a subject. On the other it can cause anger and conflict in the home and create anxiety and stress for pupils.

Research around the benefits of homework in primary school is mixed, but overall shows little positive evidence to make it worth such an intrusion into childhood.

At Gt. Finborough we have reached a compromise which we feel is in the best interests of our pupils.

Reading

We believe that reading development is vital and is something which can be effectively supported at home, either through parents hearing their child read or through reading to children or a combination of the two. Enjoying books together at home is something we would expect to happen almost daily for our pupils.

Personalised Homework

There are times when pupils just need a little extra support in a particular area and where parents/ carers can work with teachers to offer specific help for their child. This is best planned and discussed directly with the child and parents so that all parties are clear about how to support the child in their learning. This might happen several times for some children, and not at all for others.

Parental Involvement

Without homework, some parents might feel out of touch with what their child is learning. To address this each class produces a termly newsletter explaining what will be taught and how parents can support learning at home. In addition, parents are able to make arrangements with teachers to come in after school to look through their child's books with their child.

The Compromise

- We don't set regular homework, but that doesn't mean there will never be any homework.
- Personalised homework may be set for individual children as and when needed.
- Daily reading at home is an expectation across the school.
- Teachers may set occasional optional homework when they feel it would further motivate and inspire pupils.
- Pupils are welcome to further pursue any aspect of their learning in the classroom beyond school, and to bring in such work to share with their teachers and peers.
- Parental involvement is highly valued – parents and carers are kept informed about learning and how to support it through termly newsletters and opportunities to come into school and look at their child's books.

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