

Own learning



What is Ownwork?

Ownwork is our school's name for work which children do at home to prepare for, follow up or compliment the work they are doing at school-usually in connection with their topic work.

The term ownwork refers to the fact that there will be opportunity for children to choose what they do and the way they do it. For example, when studying Egypt they might be asked to research pyramids. Some children might write a report others might make a model, draw a diagram or produce a power point presentation. However, there might also be occasions when your child's teacher considers it necessary to ask for something very specific to be done at home in connection with their class work .

It is an opportunity for pupils to apply and practise different skills. It also helps children to extend their learning through independent or parent/carer assisted research and reading.

Ownwork is not set as a time-filler, or as something that is to be worried over but rather an opportunity to develop real life skills. Parents are not expected to teach new skills but to provide support and encouragement and perhaps work alongside their children. Through ownwork, pupils will be given the opportunity to work individually, with support and with peers.

Lists of ownwork tasks are sent home each week (sometimes fortnightly) and children will know when the work ought to be brought to school.

Geoffrey Field Home Learning Charter

The school will :

- set interesting ownwork tasks and discuss these with the children.
- recognise children's efforts and achievements and celebrate these.
- provide learning opportunities through websites such as Mathletics and Bug Club.

As a pupil I will :

- listen carefully to the explanation of "ownwork" activities.
- ask my teacher if I do not understand.
- plan my home learning so that it fits with other activities e.g. clubs
- Present my own learning to the best of my ability

As a parent/carer I will :

- support and encourage my child with their home learning (see home learning flyer or school website).
- listen to my child read at least 3 times a week and record this in their diary.
- provide opportunities to practise skills in real life such as paying for items in a shop and reading a newspaper together.
- help with their "ownwork".

Pupil Name:

**Teacher's Signature;
Date;**

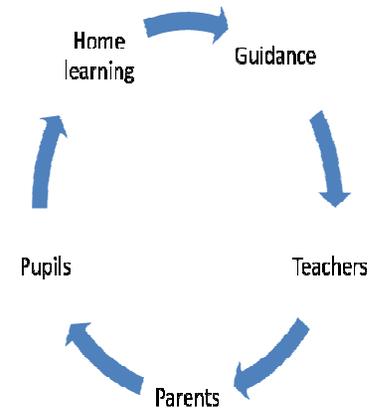
**Pupil's Signature:
Date;**

**Parent's Signature:
Date;**

Geoffrey Field Junior School



Home Learning Policy



Learning Together

Partners in all our children's futures

Home learning , A guide for parents and carers

There are four aspects to home learning at Geoffrey Field junior school

- Discussion
- Ownwork
- Reading
- Maths

Discussion

Value of the Month

Children will be encouraged to talk to you about the value of the month. These are themes like "trust" and "respect" which are used as basis for our assemblies. (The values for the whole term are posted on the web site)

Class Topics

At the beginning of each class topic you will be sent an overview outlining the main areas of learning that will be covered. This provides you with an opportunity to extend their learning by talking about the experiences they have had or are about to have.

University Afternoons

Children are given university prospectuses before the start of each of the two periods of Geoffrey Field "university afternoons". They take the prospectuses home so you can discuss their choice of courses with them and help them fill in the application forms (see "University afternoons" on the web site).

Talking to children about the school day

When you ask children, "What have you done at school today?" they often say,

"Nothing," which really means nothing new.

However, talking to your children about what they are doing by asking about the things suggested above is one of the most valuable things you can do to help your children's learning



How much time should be spent on ownwork tasks ?

This is a very individual decision. Some children will happily spend many hours a week on this work, others will prefer to do it very quickly. The last thing we want is for children to be "turned off" learning because they are made to do more than is comfortable for them and for you.

However, in addition to this ownwork, time should be given to reading practice three times a week, and some time to times- tables and to "real-life" maths. Guidance on these is given below.

Reading



Reading is an essential life skill. All pupils should have a daily reading time at home (even those who are competent readers.) at least three times a week We hope you (or other family members) will listen to your children read or allow them to read independently and then talk to them about the book afterwards. Children bring home book marks which we hope will be a helpful guide to letting you know what skills your child is currently learning and some prompts to help you ask questions to help them learn these skills so they can move on to the next level.

Children are encouraged to take home a range of books both fiction and non-fiction including books borrowed from the school library. We would appreciate all home reading to be noted in reading diaries by either the child or the person they have read with.

Each child also has a password to give them access to e-books and quizzes at the correct level for them on the Bug Club website.

(For further information about reading at home see the reading information sheet which is available from school and on our school website)

Maths



Maths is an important part of our school curriculum. The skills of calculation, reasoning and problem solving are used frequently in adult life. Consequently, pupils need regular practice to become proficient in basic "mental maths" skills such as multiplication tables and number bonds. Your child will be tested regularly on their tables; please ask them how they are doing.

It would be really helpful for children at home to spend about 10 minutes two or three times a week to work on their mathematical skills. This could be learning tables or using everyday situations which provide perfect opportunities to reinforce maths skills, for example weighing out ingredients when baking, calculating change when shopping and calculating savings made when buying discounted goods.

Each child also has a password so they can access the Mathematics website. This allows them to practise their maths skills and complete with other children round the world. It's a great way of motivating children.

Some activities require a parent's signature on a provided slip or in the child's reading record