



Making the partnership work.





After months of research, discussions, consultations and reviews of our current practice, the staff and governors at Newick CE Primary School are very pleased to present the new Home Learning Policy 2005

WHAT IS 'HOME LEARNING'?

“Home Learning is any activity which pupils are involved in outside the normal school day that contributes to their learning, either on their own or with others.” *DfES, Raising Standards*

At Newick we believe that there are clear benefits for children who spend regular periods of time on different learning activities outside of school. We see home learning as an important way of not only establishing a successful dialogue between teachers and parents, but also involving parents in the education of their child. Families are in a unique position to provide some very important opportunities for their children that perhaps a school is unable to provide.

The DfES suggest that children in Years 1 & 2 should have ten minutes of activities per night. Children in Years 3 & 4 should be involved in twenty minutes of home learning per night and Year 5 & 6 children should be involved in thirty minutes per night.

Newick teachers will normally set home learning tasks once a week, over and above the usual reading tasks. These will be written in your child's Home Learning/Reading Diary.

However, home learning activities do not have to be prescribed by the teacher and may include : reading, walking the dog, attending a club, playing a board game, visiting a museum, going swimming etc all of which are invaluable developmental activities.

Children also need time after school to play, socialise and engage in child type activities.

Home Learning Tasks should not be onerous nor should they cause conflict at home. Too often home learning can become associated with oppression, tension, misery and excuses. Some parents who get home from their own stressful days may be entirely unable to enjoy their children's company because of the need for dreary, repetitive, joyless tasks to be completed.

At Newick, we would rather home learning activities be challenging, interesting and enjoyable.



HOW CAN PARENTS HELP?

To be effective, home learning needs to be part of a wider partnership between parents and school.

It is a fact that children develop their skills, interests and talents when parents encourage them to make maximum use of the experiences and opportunities that are available outside of school.

Listen to your child read on a daily basis.

Home learning is a learning tool, so go out and about
– learn together!

When appropriate, extend the home learning tasks by using appropriate websites or library resources.

~~Help your child find a suitable place to engage in the home learning tasks~~

Make sure your child doesn't spend too long on a home learning task.

Use your child's Home Learning/Reading Diary as a method of communicating with the class teacher.

Help your child and show support, but do not confuse your child by showing them methods that are not being used in school.

Use the common word list in the Home Learning Diary and the Curriculum letters to help your child learn relevant spellings.

Breakfast gives children the energy to learn!



AIMS,



OBJECTIVES & PRINCIPLES

- As a school we will try to set home learning tasks that are challenging, interesting enjoyable and linked to home life where possible.
- Parents are to be encouraged to become more involved in home learning by providing educational experiences when home learning tasks are not set by the school.
- The school and parents will extend and enrich learning opportunities, showing children that learning can take place at many times and in many places, not only in school.
- While Home Learning is important, it should not prevent children from taking part in a wider range of out-of-school clubs and activities. These also play an important part in the lives of many children.
- Home Learning tasks should help children develop responsibility for their own learning.
- Home Learning should promote a partnership between home and school in supporting each child's learning.
- The teacher and parents are to use the Home Learning/Reading Diary to enable an effective dialogue between home and school as well as monitoring the different home learning tasks that the children will be involved in.
- If parents have any problems or questions about home learning, they should in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher. If the questions are of a more general nature, they should contact the headteacher.

