

## In Summary

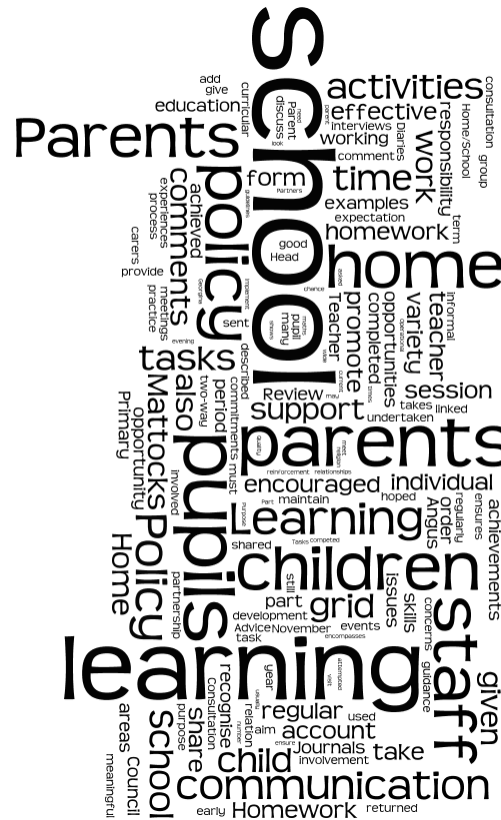
- \* Homework grids will be issued approximately every 4 weeks but will have the timescales clearly shown on it.
- \* Tasks in bold print are to be considered compulsory
- \* A minimum of at least 3 other tasks should be selected
- \* Parents are asked to support their child to plan and carry out tasks to the highest possible standard
- \* Parents should sign the grid to show which tasks have been completed
- \* Completed pieces can be returned to school at anytime up the final date

### Did you know...?

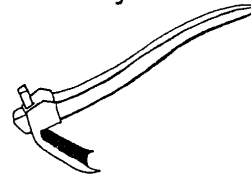
- ◆ **Children spend only 15% of their time in school**
- ◆ **Doing homework regularly throughout their school years equates to approximately an extra year's schooling**
- ◆ **When parents are involved, children do better and achieve more!**

This policy has been written after consultation with parents, pupils and staff and with the support of a short-life working group of parents who gave feedback and advice over the proposals.

Thank you to everyone for your help



Mattocks  
Primary School



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## Home Learning



A guide for parents  
about changes  
to our  
homework policy

Feb 2014

A full version of this policy  
will be available in school  
and on the website

## Learning at Home—why is it important?

We at Mattocks Primary School acknowledge the vital role that parents and carers play in their child's education. As a school community we are confident that the strength of the partnership between home and school will enhance the achievements of our pupils and promote an effective and positive ethos.



Caption describing picture or graphic



Home learning encompasses a wide variety of opportunities whereby children's learning can be shared and extended. It is a two way process between home and school and for this to be effective it is vital that we maintain good communication links. We achieve this by:

- ◆ Having formal and informal parents evenings

- ◆ Sharing children's learning in a termly learning journal
- ◆ Parents are encouraged to participate in school activities and events and share their time and talents with us
- ◆ Homework is given to consolidate and extend learning achieved in school.

## What will the revised homework entail?

Every month your child will be issued with a homework grid which will contain a variety of activities and tasks to be undertaken. These will cover a range of curricular areas and reflect the needs and interests of the children.

Mattocks Primary School Homework Grid - Primary 5				
<b>Learn your Scottish poem off by heart and recite it to someone in your family</b>	Find out 5 facts about the Buddha and be ready to share these in class.	Look for patterns around your home. Draw a picture of one and name the shapes that are in it.	Record the time when you start and finish your tea. How long did it take you?	Use the Character Developer or the Word Wizard with a book you have at home
<b>Complete questions on 'Time Problems'</b>	Design a poster about washing your hands	Find out about a famous Victorian and make a profile about them.	Look through magazines and find 10 examples of healthy and unhealthy foods.	Create a picture of a Victorian child. Use cloth and materials if you can.
<b>Draw a Victorian Classroom and label your picture.</b>	Spend 20 minutes playing a game with an adult. It could be a board game or a physical activity.		Complete the bus timetable worksheet	Make a healthy sandwich. Take a photo or draw a picture of it.
<b>Say the 4 and 7 times tables. Ask someone to time you. Try to get faster each time you do this.</b>	Try a new fruit or vegetable. Draw a picture and write a description of it.	Visit <a href="http://www.bbc.co.uk/victorian">www.bbc.co.uk/victorian</a> play the game and write down 3 facts you have learned	Make a chart which shows all the chores you complete at home over a week	

Some of the tasks will be in **bold text**, these are the ones that are considered to be **compulsory**.

The remaining tasks are at the parent's discretion as we recognise that there are varying demands on family time. However, we would expect that pupils would complete at least another 3 tasks from the grid of their own choice.

By working in this way, children will learn the importance of time management and organizational skills. We hope this will be a more meaningful and interesting way of extending the learning done in school to the home environment and wider world.

Pupils in the early stages of their reading and writing development will still require regular practice and reinforcement of these skills at home. Due to the frequency and immediacy required for these tasks, this will not form part of the homework grid but be recorded in the home / school diaries.

Completed items can be returned to school at anytime within the allotted timescale but certainly by the due date. It would be helpful if the grid could be signed / initialed by parents by each completed task

Pupils will receive feedback in the form of self and peer evaluation and teacher comments. We would also encourage parents to add their comments either on the grid or in homework diaries.

In term 4 we will ask for feedback to help us evaluate this new policy. If however, there are any concerns in the meantime please contact the school.