



Heron Hill Primary School

Homework Policy

Our Approach to Homework

At Heron Hill, we believe that children learn best when school and home work together in a supportive, balanced way. Homework should not be a source of stress or conflict, but an opportunity to strengthen family connections, develop key skills, and foster a love of learning. We prioritize meaningful activities over volume. Time spent with family, reading together, and building everyday life skills is just as important as formal academic tasks.

Our Key Priorities

Each of our key priorities link well with our school values:

 RESPECT We show respect and consideration to all members of our school community; this is important. We look for role models to inspire us to be the best we can be. We also know that we can be role models; we aim to set a good example to others.	RELATIONSHIPS We value the chance to work together on new learning, new challenges or new experiences. We are all important parts of the Heron Hill jigsaw puzzle. We encourage each other to do the best we can; practice makes progress! 
 RESPONSIBILITY We recognise the responsibilities we have as members of our school community. We take responsibility for our actions, especially when something goes wrong. We learn from our mistakes; we say sorry and change it.	RESILIENCE We know that things at school aren't always easy; from challenging learning tasks to tricky friendships, we value the chance to keep trying when things get tough. We celebrate little steps along the way to progress and (with the help of school staff) focus on what we can do and what we can control. 

1. Family Time Comes First

We recognise the importance of family life in a child's wellbeing and development. Homework should fit around family routines, not replace them. Shared experiences - talking, playing, cooking, and spending time together - are valuable learning opportunities.

2. Reading Together

Reading is *the* most important homework we set. We encourage our families to:

- Read with their child as often as possible
- Share stories, talk about books, and enjoy language together
- Revisit favourite books as well as exploring new ones

Reading should be enjoyable and relaxed, helping children develop confidence, imagination, and a lifelong love of books.

3. Learning Basic Number Facts

A strong understanding of basic number facts supports all areas of maths. We encourage regular, short practice of:

- Number bonds (e.g. $2+8=10$; $12-7=5$)
- Times tables (to 12×12 by the end of Year 4)
- Counting and simple calculations in everyday contexts

Playing games, talking about maths in everyday life, using Numbots and TTRS online games, and engaging in a wide range of practical activities all help to secure recall of basic number skills.

4. Developing Life Skills

Children learn a great deal through taking on everyday responsibilities. We encourage families to involve children in:

- Preparing food
- Tidying and organising
- Shopping and handling money
- Building up their organisational skills

These activities build independence, confidence, and problem-solving skills.

Using Widgits to Support Homework

We use Widgits to provide visual suggestions for home activities. Homework Widgit sheets are sent home termly. They help children and families:

- Understand expectations clearly
- Choose from a range of engaging options
- Take part in activities together

Widgits may include ideas such as:

- Reading together
- Playing number and counting games
- Going for a walk and talking about what you see
- Cooking or baking as a family
- Creative activities like drawing or building

These are not compulsory tasks, but flexible suggestions designed to suit different families.

Our Expectations

- Homework should be short, flexible, and enjoyable
- Activities should support wellbeing as well as learning
- Families should feel able to adapt tasks to suit their routines
- Children should be encouraged, not pressured

Working Together

We value the partnership between home and school. If homework is causing difficulty or does not fit your family circumstances, please come and speak to us. We are happy to adapt expectations to ensure homework stays positive and meaningful.

In Summary

The most valuable “homework” you can do is:

- Spend time together
- Read regularly
- Talk, play, and explore
- Involve your child in everyday life

These experiences lay the strongest foundations for learning.

Thank you for your continued support.