



Homework Policy

Rationale

Research has indicated that homework has a positive impact on children's achievement. Homework enables children to consolidate their learning; it provides opportunity to practise skills and to extend knowledge through additional reading and research. For older pupils, it may also help them to prepare for a new topic or revision work and develops skills of planning and organising time.

At Horizon School we set high expectations for our pupils and we believe that when children are fully supported at home, their chances of success increase significantly. Parents have an important role to play in the educational development of their children; this development is a shared responsibility between home and school. Homework provides an opportunity for parents to play a significant role in supporting this development.

Aims

- ❖ To develop a consistent approach to the setting of homework.
- ❖ To strengthen home-school links.
- ❖ To challenge, extend and support our pupils.
- ❖ To allow for practice and consolidation of work done in class.

Homework is most beneficial when:

- ❖ It reinforces and extends class work and consolidates basic skills and knowledge.
- ❖ It is challenging and purposeful, but not so demanding that it has adverse effects on motivation.
- ❖ Children take responsibility for their homework and are supported by parents.
- ❖ It is well coordinated and teacher expectations are clearly communicated.
- ❖ It is set on a regular basis and establishes a routine.
- ❖ Teachers set suitable amounts of homework which are varied and at an appropriate level for the capabilities of the individual child.
- ❖ Feedback is given regularly.

Setting of homework

Homework is set weekly and is distributed on a Sunday for the week ahead. Parents are able to access the homework via the school website at www.horizonschooldubai.com/homework.htm
Each year group's homework will be saved as a PDF file that is easily downloaded (see appendices).

Acceptable time spent on homework

Year Groups	Time Per Day
Reception	10 minutes reading per day
Years 1 & 2	30-35 minutes
Years 3 & 4	45-50 Minutes
Years 5 & 6	1-1½ hours

NB: All times include daily reading activity.



Homework activities for Reception:

- ❖ Reading their school book with an adult every night and learning of sight words.

Homework activities for Key Stage 1:

Year 1 (see appendix 1)

- ❖ 20 minutes spent reading their school reading book each night with an adult.
- ❖ 1 weekly handwriting task.
- ❖ 1 weekly manipulative task (optional).
- ❖ 1 piece of Arabic homework.
- ❖ 1 optional weekend task.

Year 2 (see appendix 2)

- ❖ 20 minutes spent reading their school reading book each night with an adult.
- ❖ Practice exercises, twice weekly, of spellings
- ❖ 1 weekly handwriting task.
- ❖ 1 piece of Arabic homework.
- ❖ 1 mental maths exercise.
- ❖ 1 optional weekend task.

Homework Activities for Key Stage 2:

Years 3 & 4 (see appendices 3 & 4)

- ❖ 20-30 minutes reading each day 10 minutes of which should be with an adult.
- ❖ Daily handwriting practice.
- ❖ Daily mental maths/times tables practice.
- ❖ Daily spelling practice using Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check strategies.
- ❖ 1 Arabic activity per week.
- ❖ 1 extended numeracy exercise per week.
- ❖ 1 extended literacy activity per week.
- ❖ 1 optional weekend task per week.

Years 5 & 6 (see appendices 5 & 6)

- ❖ 45 minutes reading each day 10 minutes of which should be with an adult.
- ❖ Daily handwriting practice.
- ❖ Daily mental maths/times tables practice.
- ❖ Daily spelling practice using Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check strategies.
- ❖ 1 Arabic activity per week.
- ❖ 1 extended numeracy exercise per week.
- ❖ 1 extended literacy activity per week (comprehension or writing).
- ❖ 1 optional weekend task per week.

* If pupils experience problems with their homework tasks, they should see their teacher the next day so that extra support and guidance can be provided.

Completion of Homework

Horizon School aims to facilitate a love of learning. Teachers are aware that many children are very busy with after school activities and do not want homework to become a cause of friction or distress in families. Set homework should not intrude on family life for which the parents have ultimate responsibility. Teachers will remind children of their homework tasks and encourage them to hand it in. If homework is not handed in on a regular basis, students will be asked to explain why and parents will be informed. If homework is repeatedly unfinished, children may be asked to complete it at snack time or break time.



Expectations

Parents can help by:

- ❖ Taking an active interest in homework.
- ❖ Ensuring that time is set aside for homework.
- ❖ Encouraging and supporting children to complete homework.
- ❖ Providing, where possible, a dedicated place and desk for homework and study.
- ❖ Assisting teachers to monitor homework by signing completed work if requested and being aware of the amount of homework set.
- ❖ Communicating with teachers any concerns about the nature of the homework and their children's approach to homework.
- ❖ Alerting the school to any domestic or extra curricular activities which may need to be taken into consideration when homework is being set.

Teachers can help by:

- ❖ Explaining to students and their parents the purpose and benefits of homework.
- ❖ Ensuring that parents are aware of the school's homework policy.
- ❖ Providing quality homework activities related to class work.
- ❖ Setting a suitable amount of relevant homework.
- ❖ Ensuring that children are aware of what is expected of them.
- ❖ Giving children sufficient time to complete their homework, taking into account, as far as possible, competing home obligations and extra curricular activities.
- ❖ Marking homework promptly and appropriately.
- ❖ Alerting parents of any developing problems concerning their child's homework and suggesting strategies that they can use to assist their children with their homework.

Children can help by:

- ❖ Being aware of the importance of homework.
- ❖ Being aware of the school's homework policy.
- ❖ Completing homework within the given time frame.
- ❖ Alerting parents to homework expectations.
- ❖ Seeking assistance from teachers or parents when difficulties arise.
- ❖ Showing their homework to parents.
- ❖ Ensuring homework is of a high standard.
- ❖ Organising their time so that sufficient time is given to quality homework within set deadlines.

Special Educational Needs

- ❖ Children working in the Enhancement Programme will receive support as stated in IEP's and in the Special Needs Policy.

Resources

- ❖ All teachers will have a copy of the homework proforma on their desktops.

Equal Opportunities

- ❖ Quality of opportunity is a high priority and reference to the schools Equal Opportunity Policy will provide examples of how this is achieved.

This Policy was agreed by staff in June 2006.
It was reviewed in June 2008 by Head, Deputy and non-teaching coordinators
and should be reviewed again in June 2009.



Appendix 1

Horizon School
Weekly Homework Year 1
Week Beginning:

Day	Daily Tasks	Additional Task
Saturday	20 mins Reading with an adult.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Spellings• Handwriting
Sunday	20 mins Reading with an adult.	
Monday	20 mins Reading with an adult.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Manipulative Exercise
Tuesday	20 mins Reading with an adult.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Arabic
Wednesday	20 mins Reading with an adult.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Optional Weekend Task
Optional Challenge Activity		



Appendix 2

Horizon School
Weekly Homework Year 2
Week Beginning:

Day	Daily Tasks	Additional Task
Saturday	20 mins Reading with an adult.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Spellings• Mental Maths
Sunday	20 mins Reading with an adult.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maths• Arabic
Monday	20 mins Reading with an adult.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Handwriting
Tuesday	20 mins Reading with an adult.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Spellings• Mental Maths
Wednesday	20 mins Reading with an adult.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Optional Weekend Task
Optional Challenge Activity		



Appendix 3

Horizon School Weekly Homework Year 3 Week Beginning:

Day	Daily Tasks	Additional Task
Saturday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20-30 mins Reading 10 mins of which should be with an adult. Spelling, LSCWC & Visual Strategies Numeracy – Tables/Mental Handwriting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Literacy Activity
Sunday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20-30 mins Reading 10 mins of which should be with an adult. Spelling, LSCWC & Visual Strategies Numeracy – Tables/Mental Handwriting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Numeracy Activity
Monday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20-30 mins Reading 10 mins of which should be with an adult. Spelling, LSCWC & Visual Strategies Numeracy – Tables/Mental Handwriting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open Activity
Tuesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20-30 mins Reading 10 mins of which should be with an adult. Spelling, LSCWC & Visual Strategies Numeracy – Tables/Mental Handwriting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open Activity Arabic
Wednesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20-30 mins Reading 10 mins of which should be with an adult. Spelling, LSCWC & Visual Strategies Numeracy – Tables/Mental Handwriting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Optional Weekend Task
Optional Challenge Activity		



Appendix 4

Horizon School Weekly Homework Year 4 Week Beginning:

Day	Daily Tasks	Additional Task
Saturday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20-30 mins Reading 10 mins of which should be with an adult. Spelling, LSCWC & Visual Strategies Numeracy – Tables/Mental Handwriting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Literacy Activity
Sunday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20-30 mins Reading 10 mins of which should be with an adult. Spelling, LSCWC & Visual Strategies Numeracy – Tables/Mental Handwriting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Numeracy Activity
Monday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20-30 mins Reading 10 mins of which should be with an adult. Spelling, LSCWC & Visual Strategies Numeracy – Tables/Mental Handwriting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open Activity
Tuesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20-30 mins Reading 10 mins of which should be with an adult. Spelling, LSCWC & Visual Strategies Numeracy – Tables/Mental Handwriting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open Activity
Wednesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20-30 mins Reading 10 mins of which should be with an adult. Spelling, LSCWC & Visual Strategies Numeracy – Tables/Mental Handwriting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Optional Weekend Task Arabic
Optional Challenge Activity		



Appendix 5

Horizon School Weekly Homework Year 5 Week Beginning:

Day	Daily Tasks	Additional Task
Saturday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 45 mins Reading, 10 mins of which should be with an adult. Spelling, LSCWC & Visual Strategies Numeracy – Tables/Mental Handwriting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comprehension/Writing activity
Sunday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 45 mins Reading, 10 mins of which should be with an adult. Spelling, LSCWC & Visual Strategies Numeracy – Tables/Mental Handwriting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open Activity
Monday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 45 mins Reading, 10 mins of which should be with an adult. Spelling, LSCWC & Visual Strategies Numeracy – Tables/Mental Handwriting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open Activity
Tuesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 45 mins Reading, 10 mins of which should be with an adult. Spelling, LSCWC & Visual Strategies Numeracy – Tables/Mental Handwriting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Longer Maths Task
Wednesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 45 mins Reading, 10 mins of which should be with an adult. Spelling, LSCWC & Visual Strategies Numeracy – Tables/Mental Handwriting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Optional Weekend Task Arabic
Optional Challenge Activity	Optional Challenge Activity	



Appendix 6

Horizon School Weekly Homework Year 6 Week Beginning:

Day	Daily Tasks	Additional Task
Saturday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 45 mins Reading, 10 mins of which should be with an adult. Spelling, LSCWC & Visual Strategies Numeracy – Tables/Mental Handwriting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comprehension/Writing activity
Sunday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 45 mins Reading, 10 mins of which should be with an adult. Spelling, LSCWC & Visual Strategies Numeracy – Tables/Mental Handwriting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open Activity
Monday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 45 mins Reading, 10 mins of which should be with an adult. Spelling, LSCWC & Visual Strategies Numeracy – Tables/Mental Handwriting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open Activity Arabic
Tuesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 45 mins Reading, 10 mins of which should be with an adult. Spelling, LSCWC & Visual Strategies Numeracy – Tables/Mental Handwriting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Longer Maths Task
Wednesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 45 mins Reading, 10 mins of which should be with an adult. Spelling, LSCWC & Visual Strategies Numeracy – Tables/Mental Handwriting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Optional Weekend Task
Optional Challenge Activity		