Alfriston School

Home Learning Policy

February 2026

Introduction

At Alfriston, home learning is anything that children do outside the school day that contributes to their learning in response to guidance from the school. Home learning encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents/carers. Ultimately, it is our aim to make home learning both purposeful and manageable for children, parents/carers and staff.

As a school we aim to facilitate broad learning experiences for all of our children and we recognise the benefit that parents/carers and teachers working together to support this can bring. Home learning is an important way to establish a successful dialogue between parents/carers, children and teachers. At Alfriston we aim for children to become independent learners; we believe that carefully prepared home learning is one way in which they can acquire this skill however, we also know the importance of maintaining a healthy balance between home learning and other family 'down' time.

Aims of 'home learning' at Alfriston School:

- To enable children to make maximum progress in their academic and social development;
- To promote a partnership between home and school in supporting each child's learning;
- To develop the skills of an independent learner and an understanding of individual responsibility;
- To provide additional educational experiences;
- To consolidate and reinforce learning done in school and to allow children to practise skills taught in lessons;
- To maintain a healthy balance between home learning and having sufficient free time to play, relax and develop other interests through outside clubs and groups;
- To ensure parents/carers have a clear understanding of the expectations placed on them, and their child/ren, by the school.

Equality Statement

Alfriston School recognises that everyone is different and special, owing to varying needs and cultures. We treat all differences positively, recognising that diversity creates a collaborative, creative and understanding school, where everyone is included to do lots of different things and have lots of different experiences.

Written by the children of Alfriston School

This Equality Statement is reflected in our Equality Information and Objectives and in our vision to be 'Fair, Friendly, Fulfilling and Fun'.

Types of 'home learning' at Alfriston Primary School

Parental surveys and forums have demonstrated that it is difficult to meet the expectations of all parents. Some feel that there is 'too much' home learning, some say 'too little'.

During the school term, there will be two types of home learning given at Alfriston School – Core Tasks and home learning projects / Show & Tell. No home learning projects will be

given during school holiday time but all children are expected to continue ongoing Core Tasks, such as reading, spellings and maths fluency activities, or activities that support transition.

All home learning is set through Google Classroom – all children have an individual log-in and the school office is able to help parents/carers with support on how to login and access the home learning.

The school office sends a message to parents/carers at the beginning of each term, reminding them to look at their 'class page' on the school website for the 'curriculum overview' and what the home learning expectations are for their child.

We have an 'Open Door Policy' and parents/carers are always welcome to make an appointment with their child's class teacher for clarification about their child's home learning. Class email addresses are shared with parents/carers to enable them to contact their child's class teacher directly, if needed. We also provide information on our school website and arrange specific parent information sessions for parents in order to keep abreast of the curriculum and pedagogy.

Core Tasks

In the Reception Class for Early Years, the Core Task is reading every day.

In Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 (Years 1 – 6), the Core Tasks are reading, phonics/spellings and maths fluency activities. More information for each year group can be found on our Class Pages on the school website.

Show & Tell / Home Learning Projects

Starting after Christmas/beginning of Term 3, each week, one child in **EYFS (Reception)**, takes home the class toy to have an adventure. This child documents what the toy gets up to at their house and with their family, and shares this back to the rest of their class. These adventures (which might be drawings, photos or writing) are then added into the class book which is created for the rest of the year.

Also, **starting after Christmas/beginning of Term 3**, a set of activities (including a maths activity) are available for the **EYFS (Reception)** children to access, if they wish, each week on Google Classroom.

In Key Stage 1 (Year 1 & 2), regular '**Show & Tell**' offers children an opportunity to further their speaking and listening skills by sharing any learning they have initiated at home which is always linked to the term's learning.

In Key Stage 2 (Year 3, 4, 5 & 6), **Home Learning Projects** will be set in Terms 1, 3, 4 and 5, based on the term's learning. This is a range of open-ended tasks to enable children to personalise their learning. Feedback from the class teacher will be given either through Google Classroom and/or in class.

Completed projects will always be shared at school. For example, as a show and tell with the class, as a display in the classroom/around the school, via the school newsletter.

Children in all classes are encouraged to share any additional information or resources, linked to the termly learning to enhance the learning in class.

In Years 5 & 6, as we prepare children for the **transition to secondary school**, we expect children to develop self-discipline and the ability to organise their time. We recognise that parents/carers and children in Years 5 & 6 often feel that they would like more formal home learning activities to prepare themselves for managing homework at secondary school. The class teacher will therefore encourage children to complete all home learning projects and, at their discretion, provide further learning opportunities if they believe it would directly support the children or the curriculum.

The importance of Home/School partnership

We know that parents/carers will want to support their children:

- by taking an active interest in their child's home learning;
- by encouraging them and praising their efforts;
- by supporting them in particular tasks;
- by enabling them to complete their home learning.

The school will ensure that:

- tasks set are reasonable and matched to pupils' needs;
- children's efforts are praised and rewarded as appropriate;
- presentations/information sessions are provided to assist parents with understanding their child's learning, e.g. Maths calculations, phonics, spelling and reading workshops;
- it is supportive and will listen to parents/carers who ask for help.