



HOMEWORK POLICY

This policy applies to all children at Unicorn School, including those in the EYFS.

RESPONSIBILITY

Staff Member:

Head

Last Reviewed:
Next Review:

December 2025
December 2028

HOMEWORK

This applies to all children at Unicorn School from Reception (EYFS) to Year 6 (UV).

At Unicorn School we believe homework should always be a positive, productive contribution to a pupil's education.

Parents working in partnership with teachers is key to a child's success. Our policy is designed to:

- Provide opportunities for parents and children to work in partnership and to share & enjoy learning experiences;
- Consolidate and reinforce basic skills & knowledge, especially in English & Mathematics;
- Provide opportunities as children get older to develop skills of independent working.

THE INFANT DEPARTMENT (Red, Orange, Yellow and Green)

Content

These children are very young and they should be experiencing free time to relax and play in the evenings. The children take their reading folders home each night, to encourage parents in the crucial part they play in helping their children become fluent readers. Children take home books with which they have some degree of confidence. They need to consolidate with their parents and reinforce work completed during the day.

Parents of infants are offered guidelines to encourage good, basic skills, including an interest in words, pretend reading, encouraging word stimuli around the house and inspiring an enjoyment in a variety of stories every day. Most of all, parents are urged to provide a warm, caring setting that allow a child to grow and develop reading skills with enjoyment.

In addition to reading books, Yellow and Green take home a weekly homework. The homework reinforces what has been learnt that week and should take no more than twenty minutes for each piece of work. This may include Literacy or topic, spellings, including Tricky Words, or mathematics. Yellow and Green Class teachers briefly explain the homework and any strategies required for supporting children with their work.

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THE JUNIOR DEPARTMENT (Blue, Indigo, Violet and Ultra Violet)

Content

In Blue and Indigo classes, homework should take between 20 and 30 minutes a night. In Violet and Ultra Violet homework should last between 30 and 45 minutes a night.

All Junior children are expected to read every night and learn spellings and tables on a regular basis.

On a weekly basis, children will be set additional English tasks (comprehension, grammar, punctuation or writing), maths tasks (mental maths work, written maths or optional problem solving) and 1 other task such as French vocabulary. As part of 11+ preparation children in Violet and UV may be given additional homework.

Although parents are advised to observe the time limits for homework set by the class teacher and to encourage their child, it is counter-productive for parents to do the child's homework for them. It is important for the teacher concerned to see the areas of difficulty experienced by a child. Where a parent offers support to their child with a particular piece of work, it is helpful to share this with the teacher. The expectation in Blue and Indigo is that children work independently and ask for clarification or help only if needed. By Violet and Ultra Violet the expectation is that children should work independently unless instructed otherwise.

CLASS OPTIONAL HOMEWORK (Yellow - UV)

Each term class teachers will issue a leaflet with Optional homework so that children can deepen their knowledge in their own time at home. This is often topic based and involves a range of different subject areas – from Art to PE to Science. This homework is optional although class teachers often offer an incentive programme to inspire children to engage with it.

HOLIDAY HOMEWORK

From Green to UV children will be asked to read a set book during longer holidays. Any other holiday work is set at the discretion of the class teacher.

COMMUNICATION

Homework will either be set directly or on the Firefly Learning Platform.

At Unicorn we are aware that homework can be a stress on busy families. We always encourage parents to speak to the Class teacher if there are any issues, however small, over homework.