



Danemill
Primary School

Only the best is good enough.

Homework Policy

August 2021

At Danemill Primary School, homework activities form part of our home/school partnership and children are asked to take part in a variety of homework tasks to enhance and support their work in class.

Our homework policy is designed to:

- Ensure consistency of approach throughout the school.
- Bridge the gap between home and school to provide parents/carers with direct involvement in their child's learning by providing opportunities for parents/carers and children to work in partnership to share and enjoy learning experiences.
- Consolidate and reinforce basic skills and knowledge.
- Provide opportunities as children get older to develop skills of independent learning.

The school notes the following Government recommendations relating to **home activities**:

Recommended weekly time allocation	
	Reading and other activities
EYFS	1 hour
Years 1 and 2	1 hour and 15 minutes
Years 3 and 4	1 hour and 30 minutes
Years 5 and 6	2 hours
<i>(Homework: Guidelines for school DfE)</i>	

We feel it is important that after a full and challenging day at school, a period of relaxation and recreation is vital for pupils' personal, social, moral, spiritual, cultural and physical development. In view of this, it is important for teachers, pupils, parents and carers to appreciate that:

- These are average figures and do not reflect the variation which may occur from day to day or week to week.
- The figures refer to a full and diverse range of 'home activities' and not merely formal written exercises.
- The figures should be taken as guidance only and care should be taken not to exceed them on a regular basis
- All homework is shared with the class and will be acknowledged by a peer or adult within the classroom.

Homework at Danemill Primary School – The Key Principles

Pre-school, EYFS & Year 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Reading to an adult/talking about the book every night ➤ Phonics sounds/key words to be learned ➤ Numbots
Year 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Reading to an adult every night ➤ TT Rock Stars ➤ Numbots ➤ Spellings
Years 3 and 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Reading a book at home and completing AR quiz in school ➤ Century ➤ TT Rock Stars ➤ Spellings
Years 5 and 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Reading a book at home and completing AR quiz in school ➤ Weekly Spellings ➤ TT Rock Stars ➤ Century

Alongside the above, all children will be provided with a half-termly 'Branching Out' homework document. This is a new concept which encourages children to think outside the box. Instead of traditional maths or English sheets for children to complete, our Branching Out homework will instead ask families to go to museums together, grow vegetables or learn how to make nutritious meals for under £5, for example, encouraging parents/carers and their child/ren to develop positive relationships with each other and with education.

Branching Out homework will be provided each half term and will link to our chosen Topic for that half term. Each class teacher will suggest a range of different activities that are intended to support the learning of the topic, but there is no expectation for children to complete all of the tasks – they can choose the ones that they will find the most enjoyable!

Here are some examples of suggested activities:



*Build bird feeders

- *Visit a museum
- *Grow your own vegetables
- *Build your own shelter (linked to war topics)
- *Cook a family meal (safely with adult support!) for under £5 – shop together with an adult, making sure you do not exceed your £5 budget!
- *Conduct a science investigation using materials that you can find at home
- *Design a board game and play it with a member of your family
- *Create a bird house
- *Turn a book character into a puppet using materials from around the house
- *Visit a zoo/nature reserve/park
- *Pack a suitcase as if you were a WWII evacuee - What five things would you take with you and why?
- *Go on a walking tour of the local area (with an adult) and take photographs of different things that you see along your walk
- *Parent/carer portraits - Sketch a parent/carer in the style of your favourite artist!

On the next page you can find an example of a Year 6 Branching Out homework document.

As always, please contact your child's class teacher if you have any questions regarding our homework policy.

Here is an example of a Year 6 'Branching Out' Homework Grid:

<p style="text-align: center;">Maths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a technical drawing (to scale) of an Anderson Shelter. • Design a symmetrical WWII tank, including all measurements (to scale). 	<p style="text-align: center;">Out and About</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit a museum to find out more about the impact of WWII. • Visit the local library to research the impact of WWII in your local area. 	<p style="text-align: center;">English</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write a diary entry as a WWII evacuee. • Write a flashback narrative and share your story with a family member.
<p style="text-align: center;">Working with Others</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research rationing and work with a family member to prepare a meal which would have been eaten during WWII. • Have a discussion with a friend or relative about WWII and see if you can learn anything new. 	 <p>Branching Out Homework</p> <p>World War II</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Expressive Arts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draw or paint a picture of The Blitz, using silhouette art techniques. • Write the lyrics to a traditional war song, using Dame Vera Lynn as inspiration. Sing the song and record it if you feel brave enough!
<p style="text-align: center;">Getting Technical!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design/make a suitcase for a WWII evacuee. Think carefully about what you would pack in it! • Design and build an Anderson Shelter! 	<p style="text-align: center;">Health and Wellbeing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write a food diary for two days – have you eaten any foods that would have been eaten during WWII? • Soldiers had to be fit and strong – create an exercise regime and get a friend or relative to complete it! 	<p style="text-align: center;">Anything else...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use a digital device to create a photo gallery of WWII images and share it with a relative/friend. • It was crucial for people to grow their own vegetables during WWII – can you grow any of your own at home?