

Jesus said “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

Matthew 13:31-32

Tewin Cowper C of E Primary School



Believe Grow Succeed

Home Learning Policy

Version 5

Reviewed by Staff: Autumn 2025

Approved by Governors: Autumn 2025

Next Review Date: Autumn 2027

Contents

1. Introduction.....	2
2. Reading at Home.....	2
3. Other learning at Home	3
Maths.....	3
Spelling.....	3
4. Optional Home Learning	3
5. Home Learning Timetable	3
6. Home learning timings, holidays and absence	4
7. Inclusion	4
8. Relationship to other policies	4
9. Roles.....	4

1. Introduction

At Tewin Cowper, we believe that there should be a positive partnership between home and school; home learning is a key part of this. It offers children the opportunity to become independent learners, to practise and apply skills learned in the classroom, to develop attitudes that they need for successful lifelong learning and to prepare for secondary school.

Home learning is an opportunity to extend learning beyond the classroom and make connections with 'real life' contexts. It is also important that home learning is seen as an enjoyable complement to what happens at school. We seek to provide opportunities for children to practise and rehearse key skills as well as the opportunity to explore topics in more detail.

The school will endeavour to:

- provide opportunities to develop skills outside of school through a range of stimulating tasks.
- develop creativity in home learning.

So rather than homework, we promote home learning. Home learning aims to:

- Recognise and celebrate learning that already happens at home
- Promote parents and children reading and talking together
- Providing opportunities for pupils to develop a growth mindset and for pupils to feel proud about pushing themselves beyond what is compulsory
- Encourage perseverance, self-discipline and pupils taking responsibility for their own learning
- Enabling classwork to concentrate on those things that require the teacher's presence.

2. Reading at Home

We expect all children to read at home at least five times each week; this is a non-negotiable element of home learning for every child. Reading at home can include a range of texts such as school books, library books, books from home, magazines, or comics, and does not always need to be completed with an adult.

Regular reading practice is essential, as there is insufficient time during the school day for children to develop fluency and confidence through reading alone. The more children read, the easier and more enjoyable it becomes. As their skills progress, they should also persevere with longer texts to build stamina and deeper comprehension.

Children who do not read regularly at home are at risk of falling behind, which can affect their success across all areas of learning. Reading with your child at home also helps to expand their vocabulary and foster a lifelong love of books.

In school, we complement this home reading through guided reading sessions and our daily class read.

3. Other learning at Home

Maths

Children will be expected to practise their counting, number bonds, times tables, and related number facts regularly to develop number fluency. This should be done little and often — approximately ten minutes daily — as short, frequent practice is more effective than longer, infrequent sessions. This practice can take the form of games such as Snakes and Ladders, Pairs, or Snap, making learning fun and engaging. As children move through the school, they will receive a Times Table Rock Stars (TTRS) login, which they can use to support their times tables practice. Although children develop at different rates, they should aim to know all of their times tables by the end of Year 4.

Spelling

Each week, teachers will share the class’s spelling patterns via the weekly email. These will link directly to the learning taking place in class, allowing children to reinforce their understanding at home. In addition, children will be expected to learn the statutory list of common exception words. These words are outlined in the appendix for reference and cover a two-year phase. They have been set by the government in line with the national curriculum expectations for English.

Focussed tasks

There will be times when class teachers recommend other home learning opportunities for either whole classes, groups of children or individual children based on their learning needs. Often this will be targeted towards individual children who would benefit from additional support in a certain part of their learning; this will be recommended in discussions between class teachers and parents.

4. Optional Home Learning

Each term every class will be given some optional homework opportunities linked into the topics they are learning about that term. This gives children and families who would like to the opportunity and guidance to further explore their learning. Any optional home learning completed will be celebrated in class.

5. Home Learning Timetable

Class	Must-do home learning – rehearsal of key skills	Optional home learning – topic focus
Early Years	Phonics and reading practise	Class teachers will provide children with a range of possible learning opportunities linked to one of the class topics. This will also include a range or books linked to the topic that are available at
Year 1	Weekly phonics and/or spelling patterns Reading five times a week Number bonds for fluency	
Year 2	Weekly phonics and/or spelling patterns Reading five times a week Number bonds for fluency Times Table Rockstars (when ready)	
Year 3	Weekly phonics and/or spelling patterns (Statutory List Y3/Y4) Reading five times a week	

	Times Table Rockstars	the library, in local bookshops or online.
Year 4	Weekly spelling patterns (Statutory List Y3/Y4) Reading five times a week Times Table Rockstars	
Year 5	Weekly spelling patterns (Statutory List Y3/Y4 and Y5/Y6) Reading five times a week Times Table Rockstars	
Class 6	Weekly spelling patterns (Statutory List Y3/Y4 and Y5/Y6) Reading five times a week Times Table Rockstars	

6. Home learning timings, holidays and absence

- Home learning set will, wherever possible, allow a combination of weeknights and weekend time.
- If children are absent due to illness, home learning will not be sent home in their absence.
- It is not possible to give home learning when parents take holidays in term time.

7. Inclusion

If your child has been given an IPP (Individual pupil profile), their targets may involve learning at home which has been agreed at the target setting meeting.

8. Relationship to other policies

The policy refers to commitments made in the home-school agreement.

9. Roles

Role of the School

The school leadership will ensure that home learning is:

- appropriate to the age, ability and circumstances of the pupils;
- co-ordinated in order to be manageable for children.

Teachers will ensure that:

- where appropriate, an explanation of home learning tasks is given to children and parents;
- any home learning is purposeful and links directly to the curriculum being taught;
- children who regularly complete home learning tasks are rewarded and praised;
- tasks are differentiated and well structured.

Role of Pupils and Parents

Pupils will:

- complete their home learning to the best of their ability;
- demonstrate a commitment to spending an allocated time completing the tasks set;
- complete their home learning on time.

Parents will:

- sign their child's reading diary each day their child reads at home;
- support the school by ensuring that their child attempts the home learning;
- provide a suitable place for their child to carry out their home learning;

- encourage and praise their child when they have completed their home learning;
- become actively involved and support their child with home learning activities;
- make it clear that they value home learning and they support the school by explaining how it can help learning;
- inform the class teacher if home circumstances make completing home learning very difficult.

A Final Note

REMEMBER, home learning is meant to be an enjoyable and worthwhile activity for all and should not be allowed to cause distress to pupils, parents or teachers! Please discuss any problems with the class teacher concerned as soon as they arise.