

Castleford Park Junior Academy Homework Policy

Introduction

At Castleford Park Junior Academy we believe that homework plays an important part in a child's education. The benefit of doing homework must be instilled at an early age so that independent study and useful personal learning attitudes and skills can be achieved.

We are also aware that children have opportunities and experiences outside of school that are equally important in developing and enriching their lives. We will give careful consideration to making homework well-balanced across the school.

This Homework Policy was developed in consultation with staff members, parents, pupils and with the full agreement of the Governing Body.

Aims:

Castleford Park Junior Academy's Homework Policy aims to:

- Develop a consistent approach to homework throughout the school.
- Make sure that teaching staff, parents and pupils are aware of their responsibilities with regard to homework.
- Ensure that parents have clarity on what their child is expected to do.
- Encourage pupils to develop the responsibility and self-discipline required for independent study.
- Support pupils' learning experiences via revision and reinforcement.
- Work with parents and involve them in their child's learning and to keep them informed about the work their child is covering.
- Use homework as a tool for raising standards of attainment.
- Improve the quality of the learning experiences by extending it beyond the classroom.
- Give pupils further practice and deeper understanding of skills, knowledge and concepts learned during the school day.
- To develop curiosity and enjoyment for learning and independent study

Responsibilities

Role of the Headteacher and Governing Body

- Frequently check compliance of the policy and monitor its effectiveness.
- Discuss with staff how far the Policy is being implemented.
- Support parents with information about homework and inform new parents about the homework policy.

Role of the Teacher

- Plan and set up a regular programme of homework for pupils that is consistent across the year group.
- Provide an explanation of homework tasks and ensure all pupils understand what they have to do.
- Ensure all homework given is purposeful, appropriate to ability and links directly to the curriculum.

- Monitor homework regularly, praise pupils who complete it and communicate with parents if there is a problem regarding the completion of homework.
- Mark homework and give feedback to pupils.
- Ensure homework takes equal opportunities into account and that the needs of pupils with SEN & disabilities are considered.

Role of Parents/Carers

- Become involved in supporting their child with homework and encourage them to have a positive attitude towards it.
- Support their child completing homework to a high standard and on time.
- Provide suitable conditions and resources for their child to complete homework (a quiet room, a suitable writing surface, suitable materials to use.)
- Praise their child and celebrate achievements with regard to their homework.
- Inform teachers of any issues that may arise and co-operate with the school to find a solution.
- As their child develops in age and ability, encourage independent study for more sustained periods – for example setting a timer to encourage focus for a specific length of time appropriate to the child, encourage independent work first before helping/checking what they have done

Role of Pupils

- Take responsibility for their own learning and submit completed work in a timely manner, having a positive approach towards their work.
- Put the same effort into homework as would be expected of class work.
- Make sure they understand the tasks that have been set and seek clarification if required.
- Ensure that they have everything they need to complete homework and return to school all books/stationery needed to complete their homework.
- Take pride in the presentation and content of their homework and perform to a high personal standard.

Homework Tasks – Current practice

- Every half term, parents and pupils from each year group will be informed of what is expected of them with regard to homework.
- A homework menu is sent out which includes details of expectation and amount of homework over the half term – see Appendix One as an example
- Additionally to this, each year group will issue weekly spellings and times tables that pupils should spend time learning – this is additional to their homework menu tasks
- Teachers will also check and follow up Bug Club records and Accelerated Reader to ensure all children are accessing and engaging with reading books that challenge them appropriately
- A school topic web also informs parents about the main topics and units of work being covered.
- All pupils will have homework books in which they complete their homework and will be issued with a homework folder to keep their homework neat and organised.

- Homework will be marked when it is given in and returned to the child in the homework folder/book after an appropriate amount of time which gives the teacher adequate time for due consideration.
- Parents/carers are encouraged to discuss any errors with their child. If they have any queries, they should make an appointment to see their child's class teacher. Feedback from parents about their child's homework is also welcomed by the school.
- The amount of homework will increase as the child progresses through school – particularly leading up to the run up to Year Six SATs. Teachers may occasionally set extra homework for the whole class, or specific individuals if they feel it would be beneficial, or has been discussed with parents.

The table below shows expected homework. Daily reading is also encouraged and is seen as essential to a child's success throughout their schooling.

Year Group	Homework	Maximum Time
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading – Reading scheme & Bug Club books • Spellings & Times Tables • Homework menu item • Weekly mental maths practice test 	3 times a week – for 20 mins at a time – each night for 10 minutes - Two hours per fortnight, broken up to suit the tasks - 30 mins at the most
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading – Reading scheme & Bug Club books • Spellings & Times Tables • Homework menu item • Weekly mental maths practice test 	3 times a week – for 30 mins at a time – Each night for 10 minutes - Three hours per fortnight, broken up to suit the tasks - 40 mins at the most
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading – Reading scheme & Accelerated Reader book • Spellings & Times Tables • Homework menu item • Weekly mental maths practice test 	3 times a week – for 30 mins at a time – Each night for 10 minutes - Four hours per fortnight, broken up to suit the tasks - 50 mins at the most
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading – Reading scheme & Accelerated Reader book • Spellings & Times Tables • Homework menu item • Weekly mental maths practice test • Additional revision homework as SATs approach 	3 times a week – for 30 mins at a time – Each night for 10 minutes - Four hours per fortnight, broken up to suit the tasks - 1 hr at the most

Absences

- If the child is absent from school due to illness or medical reasons, the school will not supply work for these periods as pupils should be able to recuperate. In some cases, there may be exceptions to this rule and the school has the right to decide whether this is acceptable or not.
- If the child is absent for a long period of time, e.g. with a broken arm, the teacher and the parent of the child will agree on what should be done and how much help should be given to the child.

Pupils who fail to complete homework

All pupils are expected to complete homework on time. Teachers will keep records of pupils completing homework which will be regularly checked. If pupils fail to complete homework, teachers will contact parents to seek an explanation and resolution.

Marking homework

Homework may be marked in a variety of ways according to the school's marking policy. The work will be ticked to show that it has been marked. Sometimes, the work is marked in detail and comments are given on future progress. Occasionally, the work may be marked orally with the child or class. If the homework is not of a sufficient standard for this pupil when compared to their class work, it will not be marked and the child will be asked to complete it again. (See appendix two for example of standards)

The School Homework menu will include:

- Several tasks with clear guidance concerning how to complete them and what is expected (including standard and amount) – this is to enable pupils to have a choice over what they complete and helps them learn how to manage their time and study effectively
- The homework menu will specify that children must complete at least two maths and two literacy based tasks each half term
- It will also include tasks from the following subject areas: science and the outside environment, speaking and listening tasks, humanities and citizenship, creative arts – this may also include homework linked to a Modern Foreign Language
- Homework tasks will be of an appropriate standard for the age group and any pupils who would struggle to complete such tasks should be catered for by the teacher appropriately – perhaps providing a modified homework menu
- Times tables and spellings will be included as one of the choices on the Homework menu for pupils to complete as part of their topic work although they are sent home as separate weekly items as well but the other three activities chosen must be additional to this
- A year group will not specify particular 'handing in' dates, just the number of tasks that will be completed over the half term – this enables pupils to manage their study in accordance with their busy lifestyles and also helps them develop independence skills they will need for self-study when they reach High School
- In Year 6, as SATs approach, the teachers reserve the right to issue revision homework rather than a Homework Menu. A Homework Menu will be issued in the Autumn term and the Second Half of the Summer Term – and at this point, may be linked to transition

Pupils with SEND

- The school recognises that pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) may require that specific tasks be set in the form of Individual Education Plans.
- While pupils with SEND may benefit from special tasks separate from the homework received from other pupils, it is important that they also do as much in common with other pupils.
- A balanced amount of the right type of homework will be set for pupils with SEND, in consultation with the parents and SEND Co-ordinator.

Equal Opportunities

At Castleford Park Junior Academy, governors and staff members are committed to providing the full range of opportunities for all pupils, regardless of gender, disability, ethnicity and social,

cultural or religious background. All children have equal access and inclusive rights to the curriculum regardless of their gender, race, disability or ability.

This policy is reviewed annually, although it may be amended as necessary throughout the year.

Appendix One

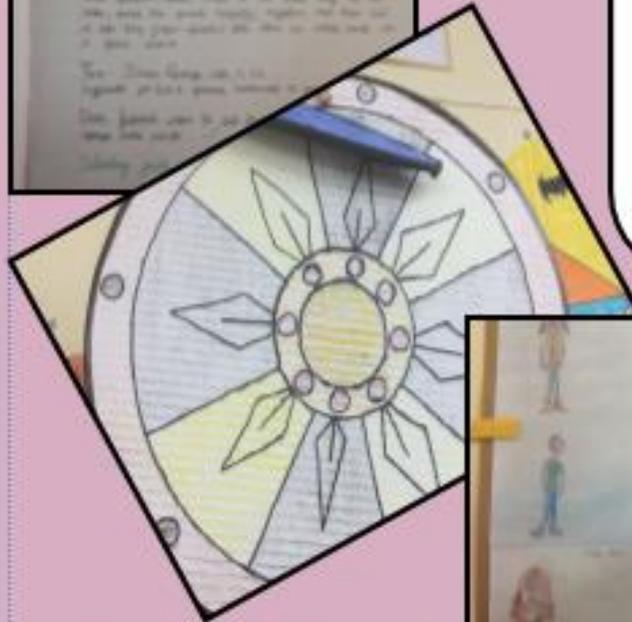
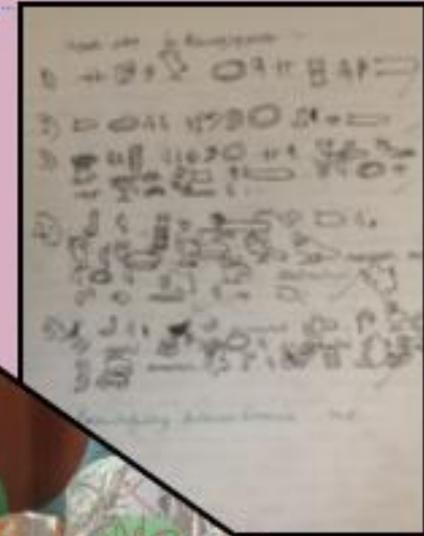
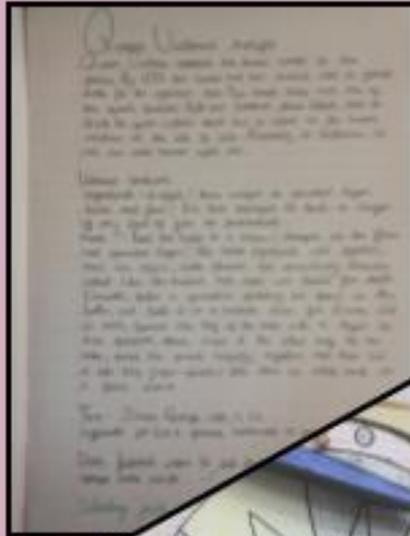
(Will gather some of the best ones when we get back to school)

Appendix Two

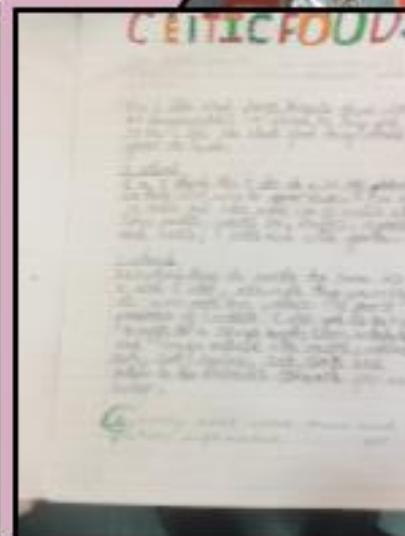
Excellent Homework—Year 3

These are 'excellent examples' of homework projects. We aim high at CPJA, so think carefully about the **standard of your work**. Always hand in work you are **proud of** and spend time on it to 'get it right'!

Be creative in the way you approach your home work and aim to present the **best piece** you can. That's your challenge!!



- Writing should be neat and joined where possible.
- Use a ruler to underline dates, titles and headings

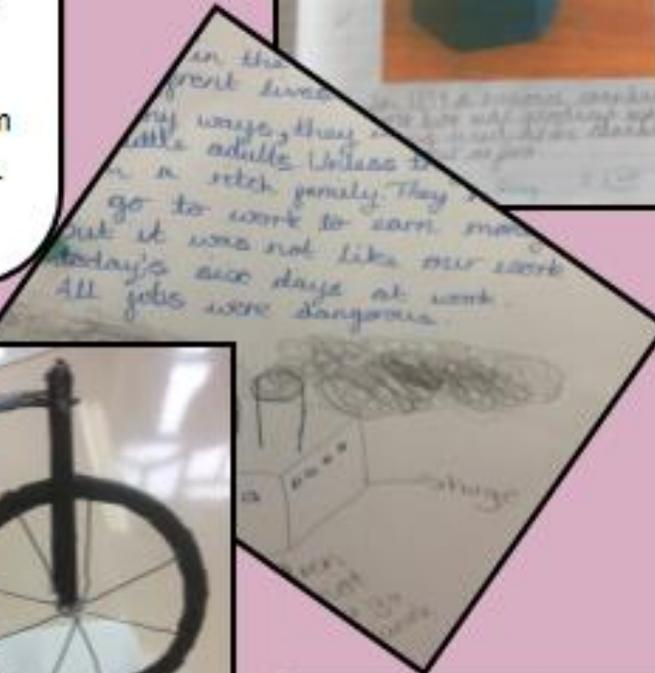
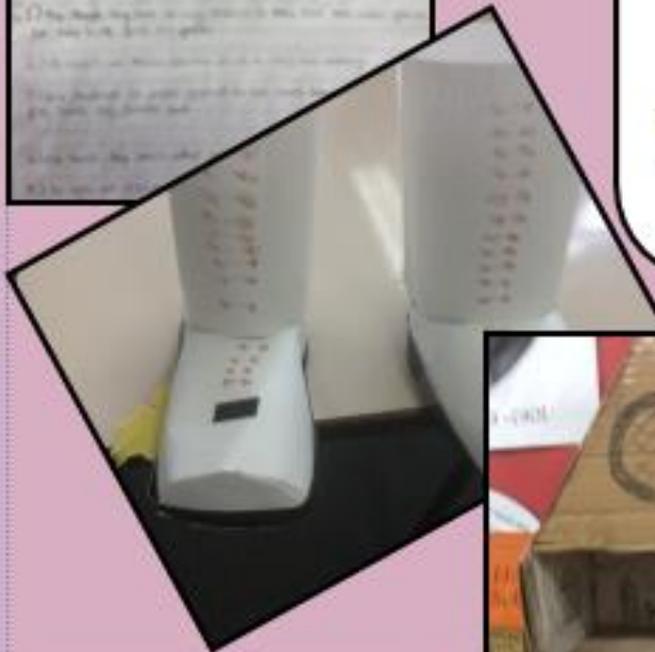
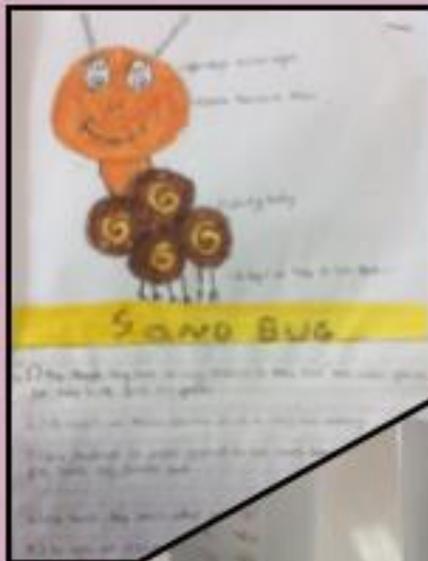


- Models should be well constructed and decorated appropriately.
- Use pictures or photographs to illustrate recipes or other tasks

Excellent Homework—Year 4

These are 'excellent examples' of homework projects. We aim high at CPJA, so think carefully about the **standard of your work**. Always hand in work you are **proud of** and spend time on it to **'get it right'**!

Be creative in the way you approach your home work and aim to present the **best piece** you can. That's your challenge!!



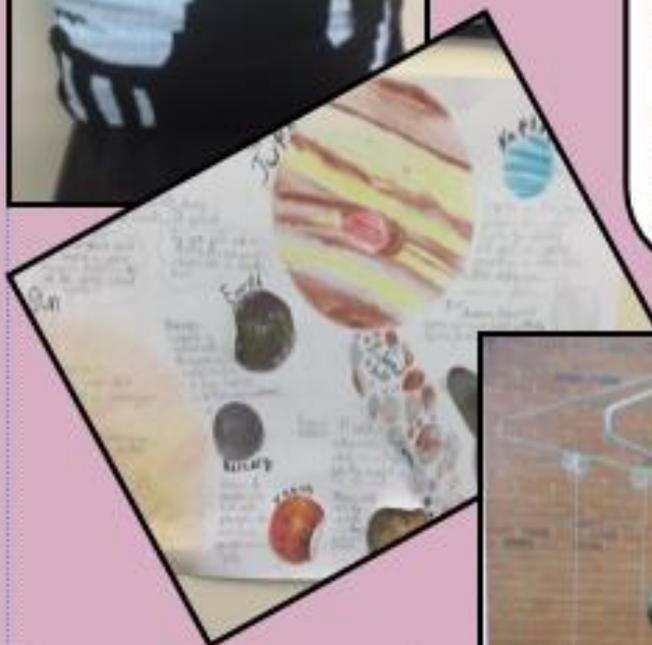
- Writing should be neat and joined where possible.
- Use a ruler to underline dates, titles and headings

- Models should be well constructed and decorated appropriately.
- Use pictures or photographs to illustrate recipes or other tasks

Excellent Homework—Year 5

These are 'excellent examples' of homework projects. We aim high at CPJA, so think carefully about the **standard of your work**. Always hand in work you are **proud of** and spend time on it to 'get it right'!

Be **creative** in the way you approach your home work and aim to present the **best piece** you can.



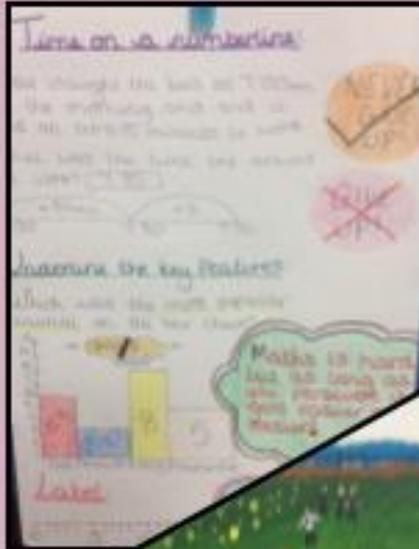
- Writing should be neat and joined where possible.
- Use a ruler to underline dates, titles and headings

- Models should be well constructed and decorated appropriately.
- Use pictures or photographs to illustrate recipes or other tasks

Excellent Homework—Year 6

These are 'excellent examples' of homework projects. We aim high at CPJA, so think carefully about the **standard of your work**. Always hand in work you are **proud of** and spend time on it to 'get it right'!

Be **creative** in the way you approach your home work and aim to present the **best piece** you can.



- Writing should be neat and joined where possible.
- Use a ruler to underline dates, titles and headings



- Models should be well constructed and decorated appropriately.
- Use pictures or photographs to illustrate recipes or other tasks