

HOMWORK POLICY



Barkisland CE VA Primary School is committed to setting regular homework appropriate to the age, needs and experiences of the child. Homework is important at all stages in a child's education and when used properly, it extends the challenge open to the pupil and ensures that teaching time is used to maximise effect. Homework makes a significant contribution to the development of independent learning. Homework refers to any work or activity which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents or carers.

Aims

Through this policy we aim to:

- Ensure that parents/carers are clear about what their child is expected to do.
- Ensure consistency of approach throughout the school.
- To use homework as a tool to help continue to raise standards of attainment.
- Improve the quality of the learning experience offered to pupils and to extend it beyond the classroom environment.
- Provide opportunities for parents/carers, children and the school to work together in partnership in relation to children's learning.
- Encourage pupils and their parents/carers to share and enjoy learning experiences.
- Reinforce work covered in class by providing further opportunities for individual learning.
- To practise or consolidate basic skills and knowledge, especially in Mathematics and English.
- Encourage children to develop the responsibility, confidence and self-discipline needed to study independently.
- To prepare Year 6 pupils for the transfer to secondary school.

The Nature of Homework

It should be noted that homework can be set in many different forms with many different expectations and outcomes. It is important to remember that when expecting and setting homework there are a number of points to consider:-

1. The nature and type of homework changes throughout the school career of each pupil.
2. Amount and frequency of homework should increase, as a pupil gets older.
3. Homework should not cause undue stress on the pupil, family or the teacher.
4. It will not necessarily come in the form of a written task.
5. Homework will be set regularly from the Foundation Stage to Year 6.
6. Homework will support the child's learning in school, and build upon already developing concepts and understanding.

Recommended Time Allocation

Homework should never be too onerous nor should it ever create stress within the pupil's family. If parents have any concerns they should not hesitate to contact the school. At least two days will be allowed for the completion of a homework task, except where daily practise is to be encouraged e.g. reading, spelling and times tables.

Pupils with Special Educational Needs

Children with special educational needs will be set home learning that reflects their ability. Home learning tasks related to practising basic skills must be differentiated by the teacher according to the child's ability.

Homework Tasks

Listed below are a number of example tasks and activities that might be given as homework. This is by no means an exhaustive list and is open to constant change, although many of these tasks and activities will be used on a regular basis. Homework activities will change to meet the needs of the pupils involved and activities that might be occurring in class. All homework tasks and activities will have a clear purpose and assist pupils in the process of their academic development.

Foundation Stage

These may include:

- Contributions to WOW Wall and Learning Journeys
- Counting objects; up and down stairs
- Listening to stories and talking about them
- Reciting nursery and counting rhymes
- Identification of shapes in the environment
- Spotting letters and phonics in the environment
- Fastening and unfastening buttons and zips and tying shoelaces
- Reading

Year One and Two

These may include:

- Reading
- Spellings
- Literacy activities
- Numeracy activities: Learning number facts and number bonds
- Real life numeracy related problems e.g. shopping, car, bus and house numbers etc.

Year Three and Four

These may include:

- Reading
- Spellings
- Literacy activities
- Numeracy activities: learning times tables
- Research & project activities

Year Five and Six

These may include:

- Reading aloud or to oneself on a regular basis
- Guided Reading
- Learning spellings
- Handwriting practice
- Reading comprehension activities
- Planning pieces of writing
- Planning presentations
- Research & project activities
- Learning Times Tables
- Practicing calculation strategies learned in class
- Specific Projects

Year 6 pupils are issued with a planner at the start of the year to record any homework tasks and deadlines, amongst other things. This is introduced as a transition tool to support pupils as they begin their preparations for secondary school.

Learning Logs

Learning Logs are a specific type of homework that is set for pupils to complete over a longer period of time. Pupils in Y1-Y6 are expected to complete 3 Learning Log activities each year. These will be set over the longer holiday periods: Christmas, Easter and Summer. Pupils will have a minimum of 4 weeks (inclusive of the holiday period) in which to complete this homework. The Learning Log homework is a project based piece of work where the theme will be very open ended e.g. The Victorians, Christmas Around the Word, All About me. Pupils are able to produce some work around that theme, but it can be in any form required. Pupils who enjoy the arts may wish to explore that route; pupils who enjoy writing, may wish to produce a report etc. There are no expected outcomes for this homework – it can be led purely by the children's own interests and talents. When Learning Logs are set, pupils are not expected to complete any additional homework other than reading.

Bug Club

All pupils have access to an online reading system called Bug Club. This is accessed via the internet:

<https://www.activelearnprimary.co.uk/login?c=0>

All pupils have a password and log in details in order to access their account. If lost, these can be obtained from the class teacher. Pupils are allocated a number of books to read suitable for their reading ability. In addition to reading, pupils are expected to answer comprehension questions about the books read. The books are bright, colourful and the system is interactive.

Reading Books

Pupils are issued with a school reading book in all classes. In our Reception class, children are first issued with a book sometime in the second half of the Autumn term. These books need to be read at home. Reading to an adult is very beneficial in the early stages of reading; however, as children become more proficient readers, as they move through school, it is important for children to enjoy reading for pleasure. Reading to an adult, particularly in upper KS2 is not always necessary. It is also important, across the whole primary phase, that children are asked questions about the books they read e.g. Did you like this book? Why? Who was the main character? Retell me the story etc. There are some tips on our school website about supporting reading at home. These are found underneath the curriculum tab - sub heading of reading.

The Role of the Class Teacher

- To ensure that any homework set is explained and easily understood. This may be done by explaining the homework to the pupils and/or clear instructions sent home with the work
- To set up regular homework in an easily followed routine
- To ensure that homework is set consistently across classes in the class
- To set homework that takes equal opportunities and diversity into account
- To ensure any homework is purposeful and links directly to the curriculum being taught
- To reward and praise the effort and achievement of pupils completed homework tasks
- To mark homework when necessary and give feedback to pupils
- To ensure that all pupils have the opportunity to complete their homework in school, where required
- To ensure that Homework schedules are communicated to pupils and parents/carers. This is usually communicated through the 'Welcome to' Evening for each year group at the beginning of the school year. Notes will be sent home if any changes are made to this throughout the year

The Role of the Pupils

- To always complete my homework to the best of my ability
- To ask my teacher or other adults for help, if I am finding my homework a challenge
- To make sure that I hand my homework in on time

The Role of the Head teacher

- To check compliance of the Policy
- To meet and talk with parents when appropriate
- To discuss with staff how far the policy is being successfully implemented
- Inform new parents to the school so that they are aware of the home/school agreement and what it entails

The Role of Parents/Carers

At Barkisland CE VA Primary School we are very keen for parents to support and help their children with homework. We take the view that children are likely to get more out of an activity if parents get involved as long as they do not take over too much. However, there are times when we will want to see what children can do on their own. It is particularly important, as they get older, for children to become increasingly independent in their learning. If a parent is unsure about what their role should be, they should discuss it with their child's teacher.

In order to support home learning activities, we expect parents/carers to:

- Sign a home school agreement annually.
- Support the school by ensuring that their child attempts the homework.
- Provide a suitable place for their child to carry out their homework.
- Encourage and praise their child when they have completed their homework.
- Communicate with school about how any issues with home learning activities.
- Become actively involved and support their child with homework activities.
- Make it clear that they value homework and they support the school by explaining how it can help learning to their child.

General

Teachers will ensure they look at any homework that is returned by pupils. Marking will be necessary if this is shared with the pupils and acted upon. This will help to give the whole process of setting and completing homework a higher profile and status. It will also send out the message that homework is an important and valued aspect of school life. Marking homework is a way of keeping track of who has completed their homework, and giving them feedback on how well they have met the objectives of the work. Marking may be done in a variety of forms, some of which will not be written. Feedback may be given to individual pupils, or to groups of pupils.

If a child has not completed their homework, we will set aside time in school for this to occur. This may be during some curriculum time if available or during break times. If there is a specific reason as to why homework has not been completed, we ask that parents/carers communicate this to school so that we can support their child to complete the work.

If children are absent due to illness we will not send homework home. We would assume the child was too ill to work.

If a child is absent for a prolonged length of time e.g. with a broken leg, the teacher and the parent/carer will agree what home learning would be appropriate and beneficial. **In such circumstances the teacher should consult the Head Teacher first.**

It is not possible to give homework when parents take holidays in term time.

Parents/Carers who have queries about homework should not hesitate to make an appointment to see their child's class teacher in the first instance.

Written and approved by the Governing Body: March 2017