

Badgerbrook Primary School

Homework Policy



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Introduction:

The school policy for homework was reviewed and agreed by the whole staff and has the full agreement of the Governing Body.

Aims:

Through this policy we aim to:

- Ensure that parents are clear what their child is expected to do
- Ensure consistency of approach throughout the school
- 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, children and the school to work together in partnership in relation to children's learning
- Encourage pupils and their parents to share and enjoy learning experiences
- Reinforce work covered in class by providing further opportunities for individual learning
- Practise or consolidate basic skills and knowledge, especially in Numeracy and Literacy
- Encourage children to develop the responsibility, confidence and self-discipline needed to study independently
- Prepare Year 6 pupils for the transfer to secondary school

The Nature of Homework:

Homework can be set in many different forms with different outcomes and expectations. When setting homework, there are a number of points to consider:

- The nature and type of homework will change throughout a pupil's school career
- The amount and frequency of homework will generally increase as a pupil gets older
- Homework will not necessarily be a written task
- Homework will be set from the Foundation Stage to Year 6

Recommended Time Allocation

Homework should not be onerous. If parents have any concerns they should contact the class teacher. Sufficient time is always allowed for the completion of a homework task. Regular practice is to be encouraged for reading, spelling and times tables.

The following are government recommendations as appropriate time allocations for homework activities:

Years 1 and 2 – 1 hour per week

Years 3 and 4 – 1 ½ hours per week

Years 5 and 6 – 2 ½ hours per week (30 minutes per day)

Homework Tasks

Listed below, for each year group at Badgerbrook Primary School, are a number of example tasks and activities that may be given as homework. This is not an exhaustive list and is open to 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 will have a clear purpose and assist pupils in the process of their development.

Foundation Stage

- From early in the Autumn Term Foundation Stage children will be expected to practise phonics and letter formation from Read, Write, Inc. for 10 minutes daily
- Children will be encouraged to borrow books to share with adults at home.
- During the Autumn term children will be given a reading book to share and will be expected to read with an adult at home at least 3 times a week for 10 minutes each session
- Homework books will be used from the Spring term with fortnightly practical topic-related activities. The expectation is that these should take approximately 20 minutes to complete.

Year 1

- From the beginning of the Autumn Term Year 1 children will take home a reading book and a reading diary. The children will be expected to read to an adult at least 3 times a week for 10 minutes each session
- A written or practical task linked to topic or science work will be given fortnightly. The expectation is that this should take approximately 30 minutes to complete. In addition to this, we use the back of the homework book to put English or Maths tasks or information that is relevant to their current learning
- Homework books will be used for homework tasks
- From the Spring term children will also have a spelling task to complete

Year 2

- Children will be expected to read to an adult at least 3 times a week for 10 minutes
- The children will be expected to practise and complete spelling sheets weekly
- A Topic or Maths task linked to the current topic will usually be given weekly. This may be a practical or written task. The expectation is that this should take approximately 30 minutes to complete.
- Homework books will be used for homework tasks unless practical tasks are given

Year 3

- Children will be expected to read to an adult at least 3 times a week for 10 minutes each session
- Children will be expected to practise spellings through activity sheets or specified tasks
- Children will be expected to practise times tables and associated division facts at least 3 times a week for 10 minutes each session. This will be followed up in school with songs/games
- A weekly arithmetic sheet will also be sent home
- Homework linked to the year group topics will be given periodically

Year 4

- Children will be expected to read to an adult at least 3 times a week for 10-15 minutes each session with comments verified with an adult's initials
- Children will be given a spelling list every 4 weeks and a related activity to complete weekly. At the end of the 4 weeks a test will take place in school, to assess children on some of those spelling words
- Children will be given a multiplication focus. They will be encouraged to practise these at home throughout the week. This will be an on-line or paper activity. There will usually be a weekly arithmetic sheet. Guidance and links to suggested activities will be provided to parents/carers. Further formative practise tests will be carried out in school time on a weekly basis
- Independent research linked to the year group will be sent home throughout the year

Year 5

- Children will be expected to read at home 3 times each week for approximately 15 minutes per session, recording this in their Home/School Diary
- Spelling patterns and homework will be sent home each week in order to prepare for a 4 weekly spelling test (focussed on the spelling patterns practised in each set)
- Children will be expected to complete a weekly arithmetic homework
- Children will be expected to complete a weekly homework on Times Table Rockstars

Year 6

- Reading – It is suggested that the children read a minimum of 3 times each week for approximately 15 minutes per session, discussing this with an adult and recording this in their home/school diary
- Spelling – Units of work for spelling last 4-6 weeks. Children will bring home a list of words to work on at the start of the unit and be tested on these spelling patterns at the end
- Maths – Generally Maths homework will be given on a weekly basis. It will relate to a) the current area of learning b) a previous unit of work c) general arithmetic skills. The aim of our homework is to support and consolidate work in class
- Revision homework – From the Spring term, Reading, Maths and Grammar and Punctuation homework will be given weekly.

Addendum to the Homework Policy- September 2020

To reduce the risk of the spread of COVID 19, all homework tasks will be paperless. The tasks set will be accessed by pupils online through one of our chosen Virtual Learning Environments (VLEs). The pupils have access to each one of them through their own individual login.

The VLEs we consistently use are;

- See-Saw
- Purple Mash
- Year 6 also have their own specific VLE.

Teachers will set homework using any of these platforms depending on the appropriateness of the activity for the required purpose.

- Homework will be set every Friday across the whole school and the expectation is that it is completed by the following Thursday.
- For the Autumn term the homework tasks will all be English and Maths focused. This is to support the pupils in catching up and making progress to fill the learning gaps in reading, writing and maths as a result of the school closures, due to Covid-19*

Reading

Pupils will still be expected to read as regularly as before (in accordance with the original policy for their year group). However, reading diaries will no longer be used. Teachers will promote a love of reading and the importance of reading for pleasure at home, by modelling and encouraging a love of reading in school. The class email system can be used to communicate with those parents whose children are not regularly reading at home. This will be evident if they are not progressing as expected in school.

Spellings

Spelling patterns will be practised at home- as in the original policy.

Times tables

Times table Rockstars will be used by pupils to reinforce learning of the multiplication facts at home- as in the original policy.

In addition to this there will be a **Maths focused** and an **English focused** homework to complete. These will usually be to consolidate prior learning in school or occasionally it may be a pre-teach as introduction to a new unit.

**For Autumn term these will be Maths and English focused. From spring term onwards they will be topic based and have a wider curriculum focus.*

Year 6: In addition to the above, from the Spring term- year 6 will be given revision homework weekly –Reading, Maths and Grammar and Punctuation.