

Broadwater Down Primary School

HOME LEARNING POLICY

Reviewed by Staff: October 2014

Reviewed by the Learning and Development Team: May 2015

Approved by the Governing Body: June 2015

Next Review: June 2018

Broadwater Down Primary School

Home Learning Policy

What is Home Learning?

Home Learning is anything that children complete outside the normal school day under guidance from the school that consolidates, enriches and stimulates learning.

The main focus of all home learning will be to develop, practise and consolidate key knowledge, skills and understanding in English and Maths through a range of differentiated tasks.

Why do we encourage Home Learning?

An effective home-school education partnership is one way we highly value learning at Broadwater Down Primary School. Learning at school and at home is an essential part of good education. Children benefit greatly from the mutual support of parents/carers and teachers in encouraging them to learn both at home and at school. Regular Home Learning for children is important, to practise at home the tasks undertaken in class and to improve important skills - helping to raise a child's level of attainment and achievement. It enables children to become confident, independent in and responsible for, their own learning. It helps children develop good learning habits and to become life long learners. In addition, it gives parents/carers opportunities to get involved in their child(ren)'s learning.

Types of Weekly Home Learning Activities

Reading

Reading is a skill and like all other skills it requires time and practice to become proficient. At Broadwater we strongly believe that regular reading at home not only enables children to perform better across the curriculum but also helps them to develop a broader vocabulary, improves general knowledge and allows them to have a better understanding of their world. In other words, it opens the door to all learning.

Parents and carers play a vital part in their child's education. Reading at home is fundamental to children's development and success. Through hearing stories, modeled by an adult or older sibling, children are exposed to a wide and rich language, which helps them to develop their own vocabulary. Reading aloud gives children the opportunity to improve their confidence, fluency and comprehension as well as develop their critical reading skills. Children should be given the opportunity to listen to and read to an adult **every day** for as long as they are enjoying the activity. Wherever possible reading should take place in a quiet room with all other distractions turned off. Sharing and reading a variety of books at home, with support from adults or older siblings, is expected from children across all year groups. Your child's class teacher will be able to advise give you on how long you should aim to spend reading with your child. Please refer to our Supporting Reading information leaflets for help and support.

Maths

At Broadwater we use 'MyMaths' from Years 1-6. This is an online program for pupils to access at home. The activities are set and monitored by the class teacher to support the learning taking place in class. The tasks are differentiated according to the focus of the current learning and the needs of individuals and groups of children. Children can practise the tasks set as often as they like over the time period set by the class teacher. It is expected that all children will complete their set tasks at least once over the week. Maths home learning is currently set on Wednesday to be completed by the following Monday.

Spellings / Phonics

In Reception, a weekly newsletter is given to parents in the children's Sharing Book. This explains the aspects of phonics which have been learnt that week with some suggestions of games and activities. Alongside this, children will begin to bring home books to apply their phonics knowledge.

In Year 1, children are set activities which use the weekly phonic focus. This is continued into Year 2. When the children are ready, they will then be sent home a spelling rule or pattern, with examples and tasks to complete which use and apply the spelling rule. This continues into Key Stage Two. Children will be encouraged to regularly use and apply their phonic and spelling knowledge. This will not be tested but assessed in their writing over time.

Learning Logs

In addition to regular weekly activities mentioned above, themed, topic-based activities provide a set of additional tasks linked to the current learning themes in class. These Learning Logs are designed to allow the children to plan and organise their tasks over a short term. Some of the tasks are designed to be quick and easy. Others may take several sessions to complete. They use and develop skills across many areas of the curriculum including art, DT, computing and history. These activities are compulsory and pupils need to achieve at least 35 points across the term.

Home Learning in the Foundation Stage

Home Learning in the Foundation Stage takes the form of sharing books, reading and enjoying stories together. Playing games to practise counting, order numbers and adding and taking away are also important and valuable ways to support your child. We may additionally send home 'words and sounds' to be shared and learnt together to develop early phonics and word recognition. We encourage children to share their learning successes at home and school through their 'sharing book' and we encourage practical home learning activities to be shared together, to develop and reinforce prior learning. The class teacher will provide regular updates on how parents/carers can continue to support the learning taking place in class.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Head Teacher will ensure that home learning is:

- an integral part of the curriculum and is planned and prepared alongside all other programmes of learning.
- appropriate to the age, ability and circumstances of the pupils, taking into account special educational needs.
- coordinated in order to be manageable for children on a daily, weekly and half termly basis.
- informed by governmental guidance and expectations.

Teachers will ensure that:

- parents and pupils understand the expectations for home learning at the start of each term
- parents and pupils understand the time frames for setting and completing each task. These will be clearly set out in the class newsletter
- pupils understand the learning purpose of the tasks.
- it is clear to pupils how their tasks consolidate and extend the work they are doing in school.
- they inform parents/carers if a pattern of avoidance develops or there appears to be any other issues relating to home learning.
- success is celebrated, tasks are marked and feedback given on a regular basis.

Pupils will be required to:

- demonstrate a commitment to spending an appropriate amount of time completing the tasks set. We suggest the children plan to complete at least one Learning Log task per week.
- seek clarification from their class teacher if they are unsure how to complete a task.
- write in pencil or handwriting/ink pen - not felt tip pens unless appropriate for the task.
- take pride in their Home Learning and present their work in line with presentation guidelines.
- complete their work on time.

Parents/carers will agree to:

- make it clear to their children that they value home learning and are willing to support the school with their approach. This includes encouragement and praise at all levels.
- encourage the children to look after their Home Learning/Sharing books and take pride in their work.
- monitor home learning and inform their child's teacher if an issue arises.
- support children to plan their time and meet deadlines.
- give teachers any useful feedback which may include: notes in Reading Records, notes attached to Home Learning books, verbal feedback.
- provide a suitable place in which home learning can be completed, whether working alone or with an adult.

Following e-safety guidelines, we ask parents/carers to ensure that computers with access to the internet are located in a family room where they can monitor their child's use of internet sites.

How and when Home Learning is given

Each year group will have a timetable for the setting and returning of Home Learning. Parents/carers will be notified of these in the curriculum newsletters sent home at the end of each term.

In Years 1 - 6 children will be able to change their reading books daily as needed.

Equal Opportunities and Special Educational Needs and disabilities

Our expectations apply equally to children with recognised special educational needs. However, the children will receive differentiated tasks for spellings and maths according to their needs, and reasonable adjustments will be made to support and include them. Careful planning by the class teacher will ensure that Learning logs are accessible to all, irrespective of ability, race, religion or gender. In this way we hope to promote success and learning for all.

Pupils who cannot access the Internet or who persistently fail to complete home learning opportunities will be invited to attend an after-school Home Learning provision.