



Be the best you can be!

Homework Policy

Ratified by Governors: March 2017

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Member of Staff Responsible: Nuala Husband

Introduction

The purpose of this statement is to clarify how homework is set, marked and the expectations of the type of homework children at BHP should have.

Aims

At Bush Hill Park Primary School we believe that any homework set should:

- Ensure that parents are clear about 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 their learning experiences.
- Reinforce work covered in class by providing further opportunities for individual learning.
- To practise or consolidate basic skills and knowledge, especially in Reading, Writing or Maths.
- 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 setting homework there are a number of points to consider:

1. The nature and type of homework changes throughout a pupils school career.
2. Amount and frequency of homework should increase as a pupil gets older but this may also vary through the school year and be appropriate to the ability of the child.
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 ie a child may be asked to research and present some facts.
5. Homework should be set weekly from the Foundation Stage to Year 6.

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. Normally, more than one day will be allowed for the completion of a homework task, except where daily practice is to be encouraged e.g. reading, spelling and times tables.

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

YEAR GROUP	Approximate time to complete	ACTIVITIES	READING
Foundation	30 minutes per week	Spellings/Reading Weekly RWI homework Numeracy Ad-hoc: Topic work	Daily/regularly for 10-15 minutes
Years 1 & 2	1 hour per week	Spellings RWI homework Reading book Numeracy Ad-hoc: Topic work Year 2: SATs preparation	Daily/regularly for 10-15 minutes
Years 3 & 4	1-2 hours per week	Spellings/ Reading book for identified children English Activity (set by SFA teacher) Maths Ad-Hoc: Topic work	Regularly
Years 5 & 6	20 minutes a day	Spellings/ Reading book for identified children English Activity (set by SFA teacher) Maths Ad-Hoc: Topic work Year 6: SATs preparation	Regularly

KS1 Reading: Children receive a reading book set by an adult (a book from a reading scheme) and choose a book to share from the class library

KS2 Reading: Some children may still need a reading book set by an adult (a book from a reading scheme)
All children to select a book from their class library and change when finished.

Homework Tasks

Homework is set weekly. 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. All children should be aware of the time-frame for completion. For children in Key Stage 2 this should be communicated through their home/school diary and in Key Stage 1 written on the homework.

Role of the Class Teacher

- To provide an explanation of homework tasks to children and, when necessary, parents and give guidance of how they might assist their child. This may be done by a note with the work, at a pre-school parents meeting or at an open evening if possible.
- To set up regular homework in an easily followed routine.
- To ensure that homework is set consistently across classes in the Year group.
- To set homework that takes equal and racial opportunities into account.
- To ensure any homework is purposeful and links directly to the curriculum being taught.
- To reward and praise children who regularly complete homework tasks.
- To mark homework appropriately, when necessary and give feedback to pupils. This may include the use of peer marking, stamps/stickers and verbal feedback.

Role of Parents/Carers

- To support the school by ensuring that their child attempts the homework.
- To provide a suitable place for their child to carry out their homework.
- To encourage and praise their child when they have completed their homework.
- To become actively involved and support their child with homework activities.
- To make it clear that they value homework and they support the school by explaining how it can help learning.

General

- Staff should mark any homework that is returned by pupils. 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. However, marking may be done in a variety of forms, some of which will not be written but could take the form of a stamp, sticker or peer marking. Feedback may be given to individual pupils, or to groups of pupils.
- If children are absent due to illness homework will not be sent home.
- If a child is absent for a length of time e.g. with a broken leg, the teacher and the parent will agree what should be done, how it should be marked and what sort of help needs to be given.
- Parents/Carers who have queries about homework should not hesitate to make an appointment to see their child's class teacher.
- Parents/Carers who have any further queries should contact the relevant member of the Leadership Team.