

# BYRON COURT PRIMARY SCHOOL HOMEWORK POLICY

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 At Byron Court we believe parents, carers and other family members can and do make a real difference to children's education. When parents and schools work together, children do better.
- 1.2 We are keen that standards expected in school are maintained at home and that if possible children have somewhere quiet, away from distractions, to do their homework.

## 2.0 AIMS

- 2.1 To ensure a whole school consistent approach to homework and to make homework manageable for all concerned.
- 2.2 To consolidate and reinforce learning done in school and assist in preparation for future class work, particularly in Literacy and Numeracy.
- 2.3 To enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development.
- 2.4 To help pupils develop the skills of an independent learner.
- 2.5 To encourage skills and attitudes, which help children improve their educational performance.
- 2.6 To provide a context for pupil/parent interaction.
- 2.7 To promote a partnership between home and school in supporting every child's learning by enabling parents to have a direct insight into their child's school work.
- 2.8 To enable all aspects of the curriculum to be covered in sufficient depth.
- 2.9 To provide educational experiences not possible in school.
- 2.10 To consolidate and reinforce learning done in school and to allow children to practise skills taught in lessons.
- 2.11 To help children develop good work habits and self-discipline for the future.

## 3.0 RECOMMENDED TIME ALLOCATION

- 3.1 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.
- 3.2 The following are government recommendations as appropriate time allocations for homework activities.
  - Years 1 and 2 - 1 hour per week
  - Years 3 and 4 - 1.5 hours per week
  - Years 5 and 6 - 30 minutes per day

# BYRON COURT PRIMARY SCHOOL HOMEWORK POLICY

## 3.3 Homework in Reception:

3.3.1 **Learning together** is the emphasis for children in Reception. The activities are Literacy based with a strong emphasis on reading together. It is an ideal time to lay the foundations for continuing work at home.

3.3.2 **Reading:** Parents will be informed of the themes, phonemes and high frequency words that the children are learning in school each half term. Starting in the Autumn term and continuing all year, the main emphasis is on reading at home. This should be done in two ways.

3.3.3 **Adults reading to children:** Parents should encourage children to point to words as they are being read. Discussion about the books is also important.

3.3.4 **Children reading to an adult:** When they are ready to, children will start bringing simple books home to read to an adult. Again, encouraging the child to point to the words as they are being read is important. Discussing the story and the characters and asking questions about the book will help with the child's understanding of language.

3.3.5 **Letter formation:** At the beginning of the child's first term in Reception, the Reception teachers will provide parents with a sheet to support children with letter formation. This shows where to start and finish when forming each letter and what each letter should look like. Giving children the opportunity to practise forming letters and also developing drawing skills with a variety of different tools will give them valuable practice. The important thing is to watch them and correct any mistakes sensitively so they don't fall into bad habits.

3.3.6 **Tricky Words:** Children learn to read tricky words as part of 'Letters and Sounds'. After the children have learned the tricky words in each phase parents will be sent a list of the words the children have learned. Regularly practising reading them, looking out for the words in reading books and playing games with them will really benefit the child. For some children, it will be useful to practise writing the words as well as reading them. The teachers may send home games to give parents some ideas. It would be useful if these words were practiced on a regular basis in the summer holiday before year 1, as well as parents continuing to share books with their child.

### 3.3.7 How much time should be spent on homework?

Reception	Approx 15 minutes per day (depending upon the child's level) on Literacy based activities including reading.
-----------	--

# BYRON COURT PRIMARY SCHOOL

## HOMework POLICY

### 3.4 Homework in Key Stage1:

3.4.1. For children in Key Stage One we encourage parents to work together with their child to support them with their homework. The emphasis remains on Literacy and reading but we include ways in which children can be supported with important Numeracy skills.

3.4.2. **Reading:** Reading on a regular basis is vital when children are in year one and two. Children will bring their reading books home every evening and the role of the adult is to listen and support them. It is important to remind them to use different strategies to read new words, sounding out the word, looking at the pictures and looking for words within words are ways in which the child can read an unknown word. Just as important is discussing the book to check that the child has understood what they have read. Children will have a reading record which parents/carers should sign or comment in each time they read with the child.

3.4.3 **High Frequency Words:** Children will have daily phonics lessons throughout Key Stage 1, which will also include ways that children can build up a secure sight vocabulary. It is vital that children build up a bank of words, which they can read and spell on sight. Children will bring home some words each week for them to read, write and learn. Parents can help children to learn these by practising them regularly. Children will often receive the same words again in order to practise them further. Children should have the opportunity to practice their words over the summer holiday.

3.4.4 **Numeracy:** Children will not receive set work in Numeracy however there are important skills that children should have in place by the time they leave Key Stage One. Parents can support their child by giving them lots of opportunities to practise these skills.

- Children should be confident in their 2, 5 and 10 times tables. They should be able to say them in order and mixed up.
- Children should be able to double each number up to 20.
- Children should be able to halve each even number up to 20.
- Children should know their number bonds of all numbers up to 20. This means they should know how to make each number, for example 5 can be made by 0+5, 1+4, 2+3, 3+2, 4+1, 5+0
- Children should be able to tell the time when it is o'clock, half past, quarter to and quarter past on digital and analogue clocks.
- Children should be confident when using money. They should know the names of the coins and they should have experience of adding, taking away and finding change.

# BYRON COURT PRIMARY SCHOOL HOMEWORK POLICY

- Teachers will sometimes send home key number facts and shape names to learn.

### 3.4.5 How much time should be spent on homework?

Year 1/2	Approx 15 minutes reading daily in addition to completing a related writing task. Regular spelling and number practice.
----------	--

### 3.5 Homework in Key Stage 2:

3.5.1 As children get older, homework provides an opportunity for them to develop the skill of independent learning. It is important that parents support their children but good habits of independent study should be encouraged. The main focus for homework in Key Stage 2 continues to be Literacy and Numeracy however children will be given more varied tasks in other areas of the curriculum.

3.5.2 **Reading:** Children may read to an adult, with an adult or read to themselves in the presence of an adult. The story and characters should be talked about and new words discussed. Older children need a clear understanding of the story that sometimes will go beyond the literal meaning of the text. Children will read texts that are more detailed and will take longer to read. They should be encouraged to read all types of texts including non-fiction. Children in Key Stage 2 are responsible for filling in their reading record every day and making sure it is in school.

3.5.3 **Literacy:** This will be based around what the children will be learning in class. The work could be based on spelling or punctuation. They may be asked to read something and answer questions. Sometimes the task will be a piece of writing.

3.5.4 **Numeracy:** This will also be based around what the children will be learning in class. The work could be linked to lessons on shape, measures or handling data. Lots of the activities will be based around number work. Children will be asked to make sure they know their tables from 2 to 12. They should be able to recite them and answer mixed questions.

3.5.5. **Other Areas:** Work could be linked to any other curriculum area, Science, Geography, History and so on. It could take many forms, preparing a talk, completing a piece of research or conducting an interview. The nature of this work may be more open ended than in other areas.

### 3.5.6 How much time should be spent on homework?

Year 3 and 4	15 minutes reading, 5x per week in addition to completing a related task. 3 x 15 minute tasks in Literacy, Numeracy or another curriculum area.
Year 5 and 6	20 minutes reading 5 x per week in addition to completing a related task. 3 x 30 minutes tasks in Literacy, Numeracy or another curriculum area.

# BYRON COURT PRIMARY SCHOOL HOMEWORK POLICY

## **4.0 THE ROLE OF THE TEACHER**

- 4.1 To set homework which is interesting and at the right level
- 4.2 To clearly explain the purpose of the homework to pupils
- 4.3 To set realistic deadlines
- 4.4 To check homework and give feedback
- 4.5 To give recognition for effort and work well done

## **5.0 THE ROLE OF THE PUPIL**

- 5.1 To write homework tasks in the homework diary (KS2 only)
- 5.2 To make time to do the homework
- 5.3 To complete tasks set with as much effort and standard of presentation as class work
- 5.4 To ask parent/carer to sign the homework diary (KS2)
- 5.5 To return completed homework to the teacher on time

## **6.0 THE ROLE OF THE PARENT**

- 6.1 To help children to find a suitable place and time to complete tasks
- 6.2 To support children with tasks but not to do it for them
- 6.3 To check homework
- 6.4 To sign homework diaries (KS2 only)
- 6.5 To use the comments section of the homework diary to communicate with the teacher (KS2)
- 6.5 To contact the school with any concerns

## **7.0 MONITORING AND EVALUATION.**

- 7.1 The Class Teacher will be responsible for regularly monitoring homework.
- 7.2 The Leadership Team will monitor the frequency, standard and marking of pupils' homework on a regular basis through book and planning scrutiny.

## **8.0 REVIEW**

8.1 Date of policy- Summer 2015

8.2 Review – Summer 2018