



# Barcroft

## Primary School



### Homework Policy

In order that our pupils can attain the highest standard (spiritual, moral, social, cultural and academic), we recognise the crucial importance of an active educational partnership between home and school. Homework is just one of the ways in which we seek to foster this partnership. Homework encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents to support children's learning.

### **Aims and Objectives**

Regular, well planned homework can:

- Enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development;
- Develop good work habits and self-discipline for the future
- Encourage skills and attitudes which help children improve their educational performance
- Help parents gain insight into their child's schoolwork and promote partnership between home and school.
- Provide opportunities for individualised work and develop skills of independent learning
- Offer access to resources not found in school (public libraries, local museums etc.)
- Consolidate and reinforce learning done in school and assist in preparation for future class work.
- Provide a context for pupil/parent interaction.

Homework is seen as 'an essential part of good education that supports children's development as independent learners'. We believe that homework is one of the main ways in which children can acquire the skill of independent learning.

### **What is Homework?**

Homework should not be a chore, but children should see it as an extension of their schoolwork. There may be occasions when some tasks are more challenging or difficult than usual as homework plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment. We also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development.

We see homework as encompassing a wide range of possibilities. The following list gives just a few examples:

- reading with a parent
- a family visit to a local museum
- finishing off work from the class
- undertaking individual research for a project at the local library
- learning number facts ( tables )
- literacy activities both written and verbal
- being an active member of a sports club or youth organisation
- going swimming

It can be seen from this list that homework can be a two way process. Teachers may ask for tasks to be done at home, but are delighted to learn about children's success in other aspects of their lives and will seek to recognise this in school.

### **What the school will offer:**

In a normal school year, parents will receive an invitation to meet with their child's class teacher termly to discuss progress and areas of study to be undertaken in relation to the National Curriculum. These discussions will include information about the types of homework which might be set by school as well as indicating activities parents might wish to develop with their children. During the academic year 2020-2021, due to Coronavirus restrictions, staff will keep parents and carers updated via electronic forums such as Twitter, Google Classroom, Purple Mash and Class Dojo. Staff will also inform parents/carers of their child's next steps using the Target Talk forms.

Teachers will ensure that each pupil has a homework book containing the following...

- Key learning targets for the year group
- Word lists for reading/spelling
- Sounds for EYFS or where this is appropriate
- Copy of the alphabet in line with the school handwriting policy
- Log in details for online learning resources
- Any extra information of how parents can support their child

### **When teachers set homework they will ensure that:**

- It is always clearly related to current areas of study within the classroom.
- The task is made clear to children and matched to their abilities, especially for those pupils with special educational needs.
- It is sent in a red homework book or posted online using Purple Mash for EYFS/KS1 and Google Classroom for KS2.
- Time scales for completion and submission are explicit.

- Work is marked as promptly as possible. Pupils and parents are aware that if work is not submitted on time, it may not be marked.
- Problems or difficulties encountered by children are dealt with swiftly.
- Regular completion of homework of a high standard is recognised and celebrated.
- The impact of homework upon the standards of children's attainment is monitored and included in the report to parents.
- Opportunities for the regular, formal evaluation of homework are provided for teachers, parents and children as part of the on-going consultation arrangements.
- All children will be expected to complete tasks. They will be given an opportunity to succeed in this through using a homework session in school leisure time if they continually fail to complete it.

### **Types and amount of homework**

We increase the amount of homework that we give the children as they move through the school.

Foundation stage – Nursery: (approximately 20 minutes each week commencing when children are fully settled into the school routines)

- All about me books sent each half term.
- RML sounds to practise
- Letter & number formation

Foundation stage – Reception: (approximately 40 minutes each week)

- Reading daily (Bugclub introduced as soon as children have settled into the school routines)
- One piece of homework in the red book or posted on Purple Mash, which is usually Literacy or Maths work but may consist of a research project or other area of the curriculum on occasion.

Key Stage One: (approximately 1 hr each week)

- Spelling books (returned weekly)
- Reading daily
- One piece of homework posted on Purple Mash, which is usually Literacy or Maths work but may consist of a research project or other area of the curriculum on occasion.
- Online learning activities (Bugclub reading, Spelling Shed & Maths Shed)
- Half termly research project for half term/Easter/Christmas/summer breaks.

### Years 3 and 4: (One and a half hours per week)

- Spelling books (returned weekly)
- Reading daily
- One piece of homework posted on Google Classroom, which is usually Literacy or Maths work but may consist of a research project or other area of the curriculum on occasion.
- Online learning activities (Bugclub reading, Speed Readers, TT rockstars, Spelling Shed & Maths Shed)
- Half termly research project for half term/Easter/Christmas/summer breaks.

### Years 5 and 6 (30 minutes a day)

- Spelling books (returned weekly)
- Reading daily
- One piece of Literacy work posted on Google classroom.
- One piece of Maths work posted on Google classroom.
- Occasionally supplemented by homework for 1 other subject.
- Online learning activities (Bugclub reading, Speed Readers, Lexia, TT rockstars, Spelling Shed & Maths Shed)
- Half termly research project for half term/Easter/Christmas/summer breaks.
  
- Children in Year 2 and 6 may be given more homework if it is felt that this will support their learning, as they approach the SATs. This is in line with DFE for KS1 and KS2 guidelines as issued in 1998.

### **Use of electronic formats**

Staff will initially post homework on the relevant electronic format (Purple Mash/Google Classroom) and encourage all pupils to complete work online. This is not only more efficient for pupils and staff but also encourages pupils to develop ICT skills and is more cost effective. For those pupils who have difficulties with this format, parents can email the class teacher, via the phase email and request printed copies of work in the red homework book.

Following the easing of Coronavirus restrictions, those pupils who do not have the relevant equipment at home to access homework work online, would be considered to attend homework club if this was available.

## **Non completion of homework**

Staff will encourage pupils to complete homework regularly issuing additional praise and rewards. Staff will remind and discuss non completion with pupils, reminding them of the expectation for homework to be completed. Children may also be asked to complete work that has not been completed at home, during their free time in school, such as lunch/break time.

If a child persistently does not complete homework, then the teacher will contact the parents/carers. Staff will explain the importance of homework and for school and home to work in partnership for the benefit of the child. Parents may be issued with a copy of the homework policy.

## **The Role of Parents**

Parents are encouraged to discuss with their children:

- When is it a good time to do any homework?
- Where is the best place for homework to be done?
- What helps concentration?
- How long should my homework take me?
- Should I ask for help with my homework, even when it is finishing work started in class?
- Who should I ask for help and how much help should I expect?

It is vital that parents display a positive attitude to homework and value its importance. It is also important for parents to recognise that it is the children's responsibility to complete the work.

The boundary between what many parents see as constructive help and what children view as interference, is indistinct and can vary from day to day. Parents need to listen to the child's explanation of what they have to do and discuss the work their child is doing and whether or not help is needed plus what form this might take.

If parents/carers have any problems or questions about homework, they should in the first instance contact the child's class teacher through the phase email or Class Dojo messaging service. After Coronavirus restrictions are lifted, they may also ask to speak to teachers at the end of the day when all other children have been dismissed.

If parents or carers wish to make a formal complaint about the school homework policy or the way it is implemented; parents should put their complaint in writing as stated in the Complaints Procedure Policy.

## **Pupils with special educational needs**

We set homework for all children as a normal part of school life. We ensure that all tasks set are appropriate to the ability of the child. If a child has special needs, we endeavour to adapt any task set so that all children can contribute in a positive way.

## **Monitoring and Review**

It is the responsibility of the governing body to agree and then monitor the school homework policy. The governing body may, at any time, request from the head teacher a report on the way homework is organised in the school.

Reviewed: October 2020

Ratified by Governors:

To be reviewed: October 2021