



Homework Policy

Berkeley Primary School

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Aims and Objectives

Homework is anything that children do outside the normal school day, which contributes to their learning in response to guidance from the school. Homework encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents to support children's learning.

Homework is a very important part of a child's education and can add much to a child's development. Children benefit greatly from the mutual support of parents and teachers in encouraging them to learn both at home and at school, we see homework as an important way of establishing a successful dialogue between teachers and parents. One of the aims of our school is for children to develop as independent learners. We believe that homework is one of the main ways in which children can acquire the skill of independent learning.

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. While homework is important, it should not prevent children from taking part in the wide range of out-of-school clubs and organisations that play an important part in the lives of many children. We are well aware that children spend more time at home than at the school, and we believe they develop their skills, interests and talents to the full only when parents encourage them to make maximum use of the experiences and opportunities that are available outside of the school.

Homework is important and purposeful because:

- it enables pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development.
- it gives children additional time to practise, consolidate and apply the skills they learn in school.
- it promotes children as independent learners.
- it enables all aspects of the curriculum to be covered in a greater depth.
- it provides educational experiences which are not possible in school.
- it prepares children for their future life within education as it gets them into the routine of learning at home.
- it helps to build an effective partnership between home and Berkeley Primary School.
- it encourages parents and carers to become involved in their children's learning.

The Role of Parents

Parents have a vital role to play in their child's education and homework is an important part of this process. We ask parents to encourage their child to complete the homework tasks that are set. We invite them to help their children as they feel necessary and to provide them with the sort of environment that allows children to do their best. Parents can support their child by providing a good working space at home, by enabling their child to visit the library regularly and by discussing the work that their child is doing.

School Organisation

Reading

All children from Nursery to Year 6 will bring home books to read.

- In Nursery, our children will get a story book and a wordless book to take home in their book bag. These are changed weekly.
In Reception and Year 1, the children will have 3 books a week – a book with a previous phonic sound they have already learnt, a book with the current phonic sound they are learning and another book (fiction or non-fiction) to share for extra enjoyment. These are changed weekly. We ask that children read to an adult at least 3 times per week, aiming for 7 reads per week.
- In Year 2, the children will have a Bug Club book that is at the right reading level for them and they will also have another book (fiction or non-fiction) to share for extra enjoyment. These are changed weekly. We ask that they read to an adult at least 3 times per week, aiming for 7 reads per week.
- Children in Years 3 to 6, as part of our 'Book Club' approach to reading, will have their own copy of a book they are reading each day in school. At the end of their daily reading session, the

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children will be set pages to read independently and may also be given a short task to complete based on what they have read (Y3 and 4 – 1 task per week, Y5 and 6 – 2 tasks per week). The expectation is that this is done at home. The children will also have a reading notebook to make any notes about anything that has interested them, any vocabulary they are unsure of or any points they want to discuss. The next session will start with a discussion of what the children have read so it is essential they complete the reading and any tasks set.

In addition to reading, for both Key Stage 1 (Year 1 and 2) and Key Stage 2 (Years 3 to 6) children, the following will be sent home weekly too.

- Spellings - 10 words following a pattern the children have been learning.
- Number work - number bonds and / or times tables.

(The above will start after the Christmas break for children in Year 1)

Year 6 children will also have SATs revision homework in order to prepare them for the SATs tests in May. They will be given revision books to aid them with this.

Across both key stages, children with SEND and specific needs will receive appropriately differentiated homework tasks.

Amount of Homework

The amount of homework children receive increases as they move up through the school. We expect that KS1 children spend approximately 1 hour on homework each week and KS2 children spend up to 2 hours a week.

Year 1 to 5 will have no homework set across the holidays including half term holidays as we recognise the importance of having time to rest and complete leisure activities. All children should continue to read during these times.

Year 6 may be set revision tasks to complete over the school holidays to continue to prepare them for the tests and ensure there isn't a break in their learning.

How homework looks through the year groups.

Foundation	At least 3 Reads each week
Year 1	At least 3 Reads each week Up to 10 Spellings and Number work (after Christmas)
Year 2	Daily reading Up to 10 Spellings and Number work each week
Year 3 and 4	Daily reading and one related task a week for Book Club sessions 10 Spellings and Times Tables each week
Year 5	Daily reading and two related tasks a week for Book Club sessions 10 Spellings and Times Tables each week
Year 6	Daily reading and two related tasks a week for Book Club sessions 10 Spellings and Times Tables each week SATs revision