

Balsall Common Primary School



Homework Policy

Homework Policy

Aims of the Policy

- To provide a clear definition of the purpose and nature of homework at Balsall Common Primary School.
- To identify our shared views of good practice.
- To establish how homework will be organised and how we ensure progression across the school.
- To make clear the ways in which we aim to ensure that the policy makes an important contribution to the quality of teaching and learning in the school.

At Balsall Common Primary School we view homework as being a supported or independent task undertaken outside of curriculum time, which aims to reinforce, extend or enrich current learning.

The purpose of homework is to provide opportunities for parents to be involved in their child's learning. It enables children to consolidate and practise skills and aims to broaden the context of learning and provide enrichment and extension. Finally, it aims to empower children to take responsibility for their own learning, to become independent learners, to develop perseverance and prepare them for the homework that they will be asked to do when they reach secondary school.

Range of Activities

A variety of tasks are used to meet planned learning objectives. These can include:

Speaking and listening activities

Reading

Spelling and word investigations

Book reviews

Reading comprehension

Independent research

Practical maths investigations

Collecting items linked to a theme

Skills practice across a range of areas

Educational games

Creating artefacts or models

Organisation

Progression of homework is planned from Reception to Year 6 through the provision of appropriate activities and the increasing expectations we have of our children as they move up through the school.

The regular routines of reading, writing, spelling and mathematics are complemented by a wide range of opportunities to respond to the current learning topics across the curriculum. Children have the chance to choose the order that they complete these in, to give them greater ownership of their learning and to give families some flexibility about when home learning takes place.

Roles in home learning

Class teachers will plan purposeful activities with clear learning intentions, which are linked to the current areas of study within the classroom. The class teacher will celebrate the work done at home and build on this as part of the learning journey of the children in school.

Parents have an important role in supporting children's efforts. They need to be aware of what homework is set and provide both encouragement and an appropriate environment for its completion. It would be beneficial to talk to your child about the best place for homework to be done and the best time to carry out the homework to aid concentration.

Children are responsible for completing tasks as requested (with increasing independence as they move through the school) and to take responsibility for organising any information or

equipment they require. In Years 5 and 6, we expect the children to approach the class teacher to check what homework has been set, if they have been absent from school.

Responding to children and ensuring that homework is completed

We want to encourage children to understand that learning goes beyond the classroom and so home learning will be celebrated and used, whenever possible, in school. This might mean that they receive stickers or dojo's for their work. It might be put on display or used during a lesson. The children might get to speak to the class to explain how they created something or get to read their work out loud. In sharing in this way, we build children's aspirations for their own work, giving them further ideas and inspiration.

Special arrangements

Class teachers will ensure that tasks are set which are appropriate to meet the needs of all children, including those with special educational needs, as well as those requiring further challenge.

Monitoring and Evaluation

In order to ensure that the policy directly contributes to the quality of teaching and learning, the provision of homework will be regularly monitored. School leaders will speak to children about the learning tasks completed at home to explore if they are supporting and enhancing the children's learning journey. Plans for learning at home will be evaluated by the year group leaders, phase directors and SLT to ensure their rigor and quality. Parents will also be given opportunities to share their views with teachers at parent consultations and other occasions as appropriate.

Balsall Common Primary School



Homework

A guide to supporting your child's learning.

What is Homework?

At Balsall Common Primary School we view homework as being a supported or independent task which is undertaken outside of curriculum time and which reinforces, extends, or enriches current learning.

Why is it set?

The purpose of homework at Balsall Common is.....

- To provide opportunities for parents to be involved in children's learning.
- To enable children to practice and consolidate skills.
- To broaden the context of learning and provide enrichment and extension.
- To enable children to take responsibility for their own learning, become more independent, develop perseverance and prepare them for the homework that they will be asked to do when they reach secondary school. [SEP]

How you can help?

Provide a quiet area where your child can work. It is helpful to switch off the TV to aid concentration. Offer your help and support for younger children to complete tasks. Expect older children to work independently, but make it clear that you are there if needed.

Take an interest in the homework and encourage your child to take a pride in the presentation of written tasks. Work should be handwritten by your child in pencil or a suitable handwriting pen, unless directed otherwise by your child's class teacher.

What does it look like?

Homework involves a range of activities including the following:

- Spelling and word investigations
- Collecting items linked to a theme
- Speaking and listening tasks
- Creating artefacts of models
- Independent research
- Collecting data
- Reading
- Book reviews
- Maths Investigations
- Educational games
- Skills practice

If your child finds the homework too hard or too easy, please speak to the class teacher. As a rough guide children in KS1 should only spend around 15-20 minutes on a given piece of homework. Children in KS2 should spend around 30 minutes per piece of homework. This will vary depending on the type of task but if you believe your child to be spending excessive amounts of time on one piece of homework, please raise the issue with the teacher. They may get really engaged with a particular project, in which case they might want to spend a longer time on it... if they initiate this, it is to be encouraged as we want to encourage their love of learning.

What should my child be doing?

At Balsall Common we have the following broad expectations:

<p>Rec</p>	<p>Children have homework books in which they can complete tasks focussed on Phonics, Maths and the topic being taught.</p> <p>Regular reading on our ebook library is complemented by reading the physical books and Tricky words are also sent home to support the learning in school.</p> <p>We encourage the children to share about the places they visit and the activities they do out of school to support their speaking and listening development.</p>	<p>Year 4</p>	<p>We set Maths each week relating to the current week's work, times tables or anything else relevant to the learning. This is set on Education City and should last about 15-20 minutes.</p> <p>We also set spellings to practice each week on Padlet, which are tested every Friday.</p> <p>We also suggest that children read at least 3 times per week and bring in their reading diaries every Friday to be checked.</p> <p>Times tables Rockstars is also expected - as much as children can - to practice in addition to all that they do in school.</p> <p>In addition, we also have the Termly/Half-termly homework projects that the children can supplement their learning with and showcase with the rest of the class/other classes etc.</p>
<p>Year 1</p>	<p>Reading books sent home weekly as well as access to ebook library online.</p> <p>Phonics homework linked to the sounds taught that week.</p> <p>Maths homework on Education City linked to objectives taught that week.</p> <p>Tricky word sets sent home weekly and updated as new tricky words are taught.</p> <p>Cornerstones book with a choice of six theme related homework tasks to complete across the term.</p>	<p>Year 5</p>	<p>A minimum of four reading sessions, with an adult, each week to be recorded in the reading diary.</p> <p>A weekly quiz using Reading buddies, 11+ booklets or any other support material.</p> <p>Maths homework is set in addition to this, every week as a task.</p> <p>Cornerstones homework is undertaken every second week, with a choice being made from the tasks.</p>
<p>Year 2</p>	<p>Maths and spellings are set every Friday and due in on the following Wednesday.</p> <p>Reading is expected to be done 4 times per week and diaries due in every Wednesday.</p> <p>Cornerstones projects are bi-weekly and set at the start of the term. These are usually due in on Wednesdays</p>	<p>Year 6</p>	<p>Year 6 currently ask for a minimum of four 20 minute reads each week to be recorded in the yellow homework diary.</p> <p>Weekly spellings should be practised at home, to support our weekly dictation sentences using these words.</p> <p>Maths homework is set every other week as a task, with access to Education city and TTRockstars as children wish.</p> <p>Cornerstones homework is undertaken every second week, with a choice being made from the tasks.</p> <p>From Spring Term onwards, biweekly SATs style question homework tasks are set which should take around 40 minutes each week.</p>

Year 3	<p>Year 3 ask for a minimum of four 20 minute reads, asking children questions to support their understanding of what they read.</p> <p>Weekly spellings should be practised at home.</p> <p>Maths homework is provided with access to Education city and TTRockstars as children wish.</p> <p>Cornerstones homework is undertaken every second week, with a choice being made from the tasks.</p>		
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What do I do if I have a query?

If your child has a problem completing the homework or you have any questions, please contact the class teacher. We will do all that we can to resolve the problem. Your support in the process is vital for your child's success in developing self-study skills as they move on up through the school.

We hope that this booklet has been helpful. Further information about our approach to homework can be found in our homework policy document, which is available on the school website.