

Bushbury Hill Primary School



Homework Policy



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BHPS Homework Policy

Introduction

Homework is anything children do outside the normal school day that contributes to their learning, in response to guidance from our school. Homework encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents/carers to support the children's learning. For example, parents or carers who spend time reading stories to their children before bedtime are helping with homework.

Rationale for homework

Homework is a very important part of a child's education, and can add much to a child's development. We recognise that the educational experience that any school by itself can provide is limited by the time and resources available; children can therefore benefit greatly from the complementary learning that they do at home and outside of school. Indeed, we see homework as an important example of cooperation between teachers and parents/carers. One of the main aims of our 'Learning Challenge Creative Curriculum' method of teaching, is for children to develop as independent learners, and we believe that doing homework is one of the main ways in which children can acquire the skill of independent learning.

Metacognition is a huge focus for our school so the children 'know more to remember more'. We aim to provide homework which builds their metacognition across the curriculum.

Homework plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment. However, 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 activities of various out-of-school clubs and of other organisations that play an important part in the lives of our pupils. We are well aware that children spend more time at home than at school, and we believe that they develop their interests and skills to the full only when parents/carers encourage them to make maximum use of the opportunities available outside school.

Aims and objectives

- to enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development;
- to develop pupils' metacognitive skills;
- to help pupils develop the skills of being an independent learner;
- to promote cooperation between home and school in supporting each child's learning;
- to enable all aspects of the curriculum to be covered in sufficient depth;
- to consolidate and reinforce the learning carried out in school, and to allow children to practice skills taught in lessons;
- to encourage pupils to develop the confidence and self-discipline needed to study on their own, prepare them for study at secondary school and develop good work habits for the future.

Expectations for homework

To encourage the children to 'know more and remember more' we will provide the following:

- Maths homework will focus on KIRFS (Key Instant Recall Facts)
- Daily reading at home to an adult
- Reading homework will focus on completing challenges based on their reading books
- Phonics/Keywords will focus on flashcards to rehearse at home
- Spellings will be weekly words to learn at home each week
- Year 6 will be given more formal homework to prepare them for their transition to high school
- Regular use of TTRockstars and Numbots to learn key maths facts

Rewarding homework

- Children are given up to 5 dojos weekly for reading to an adult at home.
- Dojos are given for improvement in scores in spelling tests.
- Weekly certificates are given out in assembly for TTRockstars and Numbots.
- Dojos are given for completion of each reading challenge.

The role of parents and carers

Parents and carers have a vital role to play in their child's education, and homework is an important part of this process. We ask parents and carers to encourage their child to complete the homework tasks that are set. We invite them to help their children as and when they feel it to be necessary, and to provide them with the sort of environment that allows children to do their best. Parents and carers can support their child by providing a good working space at home, by discussing the work that their child is doing and encouraging and praising their efforts. If parents and carers have any questions about homework, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher through Class Dojo in the first instance.

Use of ICT

The use of ICT and the Internet continues to make a significant contribution to the amount of reference material available at home, and the ease and speed with which it can be accessed. The children all have a login for TTRockstars and Spelling Shed. The children are encouraged to go on these each regularly at home. Weekly rewards for each are given out in assembly weekly to encourage regular usage.

Use of book bags

The children are encouraged to have a labelled green school book bag (or own appropriate sized bag) in which to keep in their school books and reading books. It keeps everything together and means that books are less likely to be lost.

Monitoring and review

The Curriculum & Standards Committee is responsible for monitoring the implementation and effectiveness of this policy.