



Barlborough Primary School

HOMWORK POLICY

[Updated October 2018](#)

Homework Statement

Learning at home helps children to develop the skills and attitudes they will need for successful lifelong learning. Homework is important as it gives pupils the opportunity to practise at home the tasks covered in class and helps them to become confident and independent learners. It also provides parents/carers with an opportunity to take part in their children's education.

Homework should not be a chore, but children should see it as an extension of their schoolwork. Wherever possible homework should be enjoyed by the child and have a fun aspect. Therefore homework should include such things, as reading the type of books your child likes, researching exciting topics, visiting museums and learning through games to name just a few. As a school we acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development.

What are the aims of this policy?

- To ensure a consistent approach to homework throughout the school.
- To ensure that teachers, parents/carers and children have a clear understanding regarding expectations for homework.
- To ensure that teachers, parents/carers and children are fully aware of the role they play with regard to homework.

What is the purpose of homework?

- To consolidate, reinforce and extend skills and understanding particularly in Literacy and Numeracy.
- To provide opportunities for parents/carers and children to work together.
- To allow parents/carers to gain an understanding of what children are learning in school.
- To allow children to progress towards becoming more independent learners.

What is the role of the school?

- To provide parents/carers with a clear policy regarding homework.
- To ensure this policy is fully and consistently followed.
- To provide support for parents/carers with information about homework.

What is the role of the teacher?

- To plan and set a programme of homework that is appropriate to the needs of the child.
- To provide a homework overview/timetable at the start of each half term so that parents know what homework to expect and to inform parents when deviation has occurred.
- Half termly spelling lists should be sent home at the beginning of each half term so that parents/carers are aware of what spellings will be taught each week.
- To ensure all children understand the homework they have been given.
- To mark and give feedback about homework including sharing spelling test scores with parents/carers.
- To be available to talk to parents/carers and children about homework.
- To inform parents/carers if there is a problem regarding homework.
- Ensure completed homework is stuck in the relevant book/folder.

What is the role of the parent/carer?

- To support the child in completing homework.
- To ensure the child completes homework to a high standard and hands it in on time.
- To provide the appropriate conditions for the child to complete the homework.
- To provide the appropriate resources for the child to complete the homework.
- To inform the child's teacher if a child has found a particular piece of homework too challenging i.e. notes on the homework or separate letter.

What is the role of the child?

- To ensure they have everything they need to complete homework each week.
- To make sure they understand the tasks that have been set.
- To put in the same level of effort as would be expected of class work.
- To hand the homework in on time.
- To take on board any feedback about homework.

Homework is part of the school's home-school agreement.

Homework in General

Class teachers are responsible for ensuring that the demands of homework are manageable for children and parents/carers on a day-to-day basis. Homework activities may be differentiated to meet children's individual needs including any special educational needs.

How much homework should we expect?

EYFS

<u>Rec</u>	<p>1 piece of phonic homework each week.</p> <p>Optional extra work will also be made available but the class teacher will make it clear that there is no expectation for the children to complete this. This is likely to be Numeracy work.</p> <p>Daily reading books (when children are ready).</p> <p>Targeted support packs will also be made available for those children who are finding particular areas of learning more challenging and who may benefit from extra practice at home.</p> <p>Set homework will be given out on a Wednesday and must be returned/learned by the following Wednesday.</p>
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Learning together is the emphasis for children in Reception and it is an ideal time to lay the foundations for continuing work at home. The activities set are mainly Literacy based with a strong emphasis on reading together. Parents/carers will be informed of the themes, phonemes and tricky or high frequency words that the children are learning in school each half term.

Reading

Adults reading to children - Parents/carers are encouraged to use the Library boxes in the reception classroom. These boxes contain books that are suitable to read to children so they can get used to print and stories. Parents/carers should encourage children to point to words as they are being read. Discussion about the books is also important.

Children reading to an adult - Children will initially take home phoneme and word cards which support the letters and sounds phase they are working within. When they are ready to, children will start bringing simple books home to read to an adult. Parents/carers should encourage the child to point to the words as they are being read. Discussing the story and the characters and asking questions about the book will help with the child's understanding of language.

Letter formation and independent writing tasks

At the beginning of the child's first term in Reception, the Reception teacher will provide parents/carers 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.

We will introduce pre-cursive handwriting and encourage children to begin exploring this form of writing. This will help to prepare the children for joining up in Year 1. 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. This will progress into optional independent writing activities during the spring term.

Maths

An optional maths activity will also be sent out weekly which is designed to consolidate skills learnt that particular week. This will also give parents an insight into methods used at school and what they need a little extra support with.

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/carers 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/carers 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/carers continuing to share books with their child.

How much time should be spent on homework in Reception?

Little and often is the key. It is important to ensure the children are not too tired and they do not see reading or practising their letters as a chore. Parents/carers should enjoy spending this time with their child.

Key Stage 1

Year 1	<p>Daily reading to an adult - no more than 10-15 minutes. This should be recorded in the child's reading record.</p> <p>Weekly spellings to learn for a test.</p> <p>1 set piece of homework either Maths or English that should take approximately 15 minutes to complete. Sometimes the homework will be online.</p> <p>At least one piece of writing homework will be sent home each half term. This will allow the children the opportunity to demonstrate to parents/carers how their writing is developing.</p> <p>All homework will be given out on a Friday and must be returned/learned by the following Wednesday.</p>
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Year 2	<p>Daily reading to an adult - approximately 10-15 minutes. This should be recorded in the child's reading record.</p> <p>Weekly spellings to learn for a test.</p> <p>Alternate maths and English homework that should take approximately 25 minutes to complete. Some homework may be online. At least one piece of writing each half term.</p> <p>All homework will be given out on a Friday and must be returned/learned by the following Wednesday.</p> <p>In Year 2, starting in the Spring Term, practice test papers will form part of the homework.</p>
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For children in Key Stage 1, we encourage parents/carers to work together with their child to support them with their homework. The emphasis is on consolidating the children's Literacy and Numeracy skills.

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 **and asking questions** 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. Staff will monitor how frequently children are reading at home.

Letters and Sounds

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/carers can help children to learn these by practising them regularly and often. Children will often receive the same words again in order to practise them further. Children will need to review the spellings/sounds they have learnt at the end of each half term.

Numeracy

Parents/carers can support their child by giving them lots of opportunities to practise their number skills such as -

- 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.

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

KS2

<p>Year 3/4</p>	<p>Daily reading.</p> <p>Weekly spellings to learn for a test.</p> <p>Weekly maths homework. This should take approximately 30 minutes to complete. Online learning may take longer than this due to the integrated games.</p> <p>English/curriculum homework fortnightly (at least one piece of writing each half term. This should take approximately 30 minutes to complete.</p> <p>All homework will be given out on a Friday and must be returned by the following Wednesday except spelling. Spellings will be sent home on a Monday in Year 3 and on a Wednesday in Year 4 and need to be learnt for the following Monday.</p>
<p>Year 5/6</p>	<p>Daily reading.</p> <p>Weekly spellings to learn for a test.</p> <p>Weekly Maths homework. This should take approximately 30 minutes to complete. Online learning may take longer than this due to the integrated games.</p> <p>Weekly English homework. (at least one piece of writing each half term). This should take approximately 30 minutes to complete.</p> <p>All homework will be given out on a Friday and must be returned by the following Wednesday except spelling. Spellings will be sent home on a Wednesday and need to be learnt for the following Monday.</p> <p>In Year 6, starting in the spring term, practice test papers and revision will form part of the homework.</p>

As children get older, homework provides an opportunity for them to develop the skill of independent learning. It is important that parents/carers support their children but good habits of independent study should be encouraged.

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.

English

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

Spelling

Spelling homework will be set each week and will be linked to the rules being learned or the tricky spelling they need to know.

Numeracy

Children will be set work which is appropriate to their level of mathematical understanding and linked to what they have been learning in class.

Other Areas

Optional homework may also be set in creative areas and other curriculum subjects such as, Science, Geography, History etc. This can take many forms e.g. 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.

Such homework still requires clear expectations and guidance should be sent regarding the minimum amount of time that is recommended spending on this. However, if a child is not interested in this project then they should not be made to participate. On the other hand, if a child is particularly interested in a project then they may want to spend much longer than the recommended amount of time. It is important that the child leads their learning on these projects as this encourages independent learning.

Teachers can support parents/carers with such projects by ensuring plenty of notice is given and providing useful lists of websites and books to support the learning.

Year 6 homework

During their last year at primary school children will be prepared for the increased amount of homework and the planning of homework that is required by their future secondary school.

Why will children sometimes be given extra homework?

Children who take part in booster classes may sometimes be set extra homework to reinforce the work being done. Additionally children who work in a one to one situation with teaching assistants will sometimes be given extra homework. In both cases, children should complete this work alongside their normal homework unless the child or the parents/carers have been told otherwise.

If the child is finding they have too much homework then parents/carers should inform the child's teacher or the person running the extra sessions.

What about children who don't complete homework?

The expectation is that children will complete homework. Teachers will keep informal records of children completing homework. If there are any problems with children not completing homework then the teacher will speak to parents/carers to find out why.

If children have not handed in their homework by the Friday they will have to complete it during Golden Time as golden time is a reward for children who have done their homework and behaved well.

How can parents/carers find out more information about homework?

Teachers will have different systems for handing in homework and this will be discussed with the class at the start of the year. Teachers should communicate this information in their class newsletter.

If parents/carers need advice on how to support their children with homework then they can talk to the class teacher or Learning Mentor.

Parents/carers may wish to discuss their child's homework at parents' evening including when their child has had to miss Golden Time.

What if a child says they have received no homework?

Children will not always receive homework. There are many reasons for this and a text should be sent out when the homework timetable is not being followed. If your child has not received homework and you are unsure why, then please check with the child's teacher. If there are any problems with children not completing homework then the teacher will speak to parents/carers to find out why.

How will the homework be marked?

All homework should be marked in accordance with the school's marking policy and stuck in the relevant book. Teachers should regularly check scores on iamlearning so that they are aware of how well the children are performing on online homework and identify any problem areas/misconceptions.

Homework Policy

This homework policy will be reviewed at least annually in September .