



Homework Policy

Rationale

We define homework as any activity that pupils undertake outside of school lesson time, either on their own or with the support of family members. At Blaby Stokes CE Primary School we have a strong commitment to parental involvement and see homework as one way of developing this partnership.

Information collected from parents indicates that a consistent approach to homework is required. The school is of the opinion that homework is important since it reinforces and extends the teaching and learning that occurs during the day. Homework encourages parental involvement in children's learning and helps to develop independence. It is important however to remember and make it known to parents, that when a child has worked for a full day in school he/she may not respond positively to having large amounts of homework.

Our aims of providing homework are to:

- Ensure a consistency of approach throughout the school
- Ensure progression towards independence and an individual responsibility
- Ensure the needs of the individual are taken into account
- Ensure that parents/carers understand our expectations of them
- Improve the quality of learning experiences offered to the children
- Extend and support learning
- Provide opportunities for parents, children and the school to work in partnership
- Provide opportunities for children and parents to share learning experiences
- Encourage children to develop long term strategies for future needs
- Prepare Year Six children for the secondary phase of education

Whilst we support all of the above aim, Blaby Stokes is not a school at which homework dominates home and school life. We accept that not every activity will capture children and parents' imagination and that weekends can sometimes be busy. We believe that homework should be enjoyable and manageable for all concerned and that if it becomes a chore/burden/source of conflict it ceases to be a constructive aspect of teaching and learning.

We do not specify amounts of time that must be spent on a task, preferring individual children and families to set their own routines. Individual teachers are happy to give advice.

Homework Club will be provided if needed for children who wish to do some of their homework at school and support will be provided. One day's leeway will be given regarding the deadline for handing in work. Unfinished or missing work will need to be completed during lunchtimes. If a child does not complete their homework on more than three occasions, concerns will be discussed with parents.

Homework Expectations

Foundation Stage

- Reading with an adult 3 times per week / at least 10 minutes per session
- Read the 100 High Frequency Words – 5 words sent home per week up until Easter
- Sound Books with the new sounds each week
 - January onwards – homework activities linked to the sounds, e.g. Read/Match
- Summer term – Write the High Frequency Words
- Optional creative projects linked to current / next topic, e.g. make or investigate (this could be set over half terms / holidays but be mindful that these can be busy family times)

Key Stage 1 and 2

- One piece of Abacus homework per week – either online or worksheet based
- Weekly Times Tables practice, 'X-Factor'
- Weekly Spelling practice
 - Y1: Key words linked to RWI books (green words). Pupils receive 10 words and need to 5 into sentences
 - Y2 upwards: Practice and learn misspelt words in log book (orange words)
- Reading with an adult (recorded in reading journal) – 3 times per week / at least 10 minutes per session
- In the weeks prior to SAT tests, the Year 6 children will be given additional revision work
- Optional creative projects linked to current / next topic, e.g. make or investigate (this could be set over half terms / holidays but be mindful that these can be busy family times)

Notes

- All homework needs to be marked, either by the teaching team or the pupils when necessary, so that parents receive feedback and can see that it is valued by the school.
- All children are expected to complete the homework each week – they will need to stop in at break / lunch or attend homework club if homework is not completed on time
- Phase leaders will regularly monitor that homework is consistently completed, checked and marked
- Children are expected to maintain the same standards for presentation of homework as we set in school i.e. to use their best handwriting and a sharp pencil or black ink.
- Our additional needs teachers may send specific tasks home to support the learning of the children they support; this will be discussed with parents.
- If families take holidays during term-time, something we actively discourage, parents may not request work from the teacher. We suggest that parents organise a holiday diary.

Review

This policy is reviewed every two years. The governors may however review the policy earlier than this, if the government introduces new regulations, or if the governing body receives recommendations on how the policy might be improved.

To be revised September 2019