

Birkwood Primary

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School

# **HOMEWORK POLICY**

**UPDATED SEPTEMBER 2010**

### **What are the aims of this policy?**

- To ensure a consistent approach to homework throughout the school.
- To ensure that teachers, parents and children have a clear understanding regarding expectations for homework.
- To ensure that teachers, parents 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 and children to work together.
- To allow parents to gain an understanding of what children are learning in school.
- To allow children to progress towards becoming more independent learners.
- To prepare children for transition to and preparation for High School.

### **What is the role of the school?**

- To make available to parents a clear policy regarding homework; guidelines for expected completion will be included in the Curriculum Newsletter.
- To ensure this policy is fully and consistently followed.
- To provide support for parents with information about homework.
- To provide support for children with the running of a homework club during a lunchtime for Years 1 to 6.

### **What is the role of the teacher?**

- To ensure all children understand the homework they have been given.
- To give feedback about homework.
- To be available to talk to parents and children about homework.

### **What is the role of the parent?**

- To support the child in completing homework.
- To support the child in completing their homework.
- To provide the appropriate conditions for the child to complete the homework.

### **What is the role of the child?**

- 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 try their best to complete homework to the best of their ability.

### **Homework in Foundation Stage 2 (Sunflowers and Daffodils)**

- Learning through play is the best way for children to learn when they are young.
- Talk to and listen to your child as much as possible, whether it's about a book, when you are shopping or cooking the tea together; developing opportunities for Speaking and Listening are really important.
- The children's Activity Book from school provides a good source of communication between home and school, please complete it with your child as often as you can.

**Reading**

Parents will be given lists of words that the children are learning in school each week or half term. When reading at home, this should be done in two ways:

**Adults reading to children**

Parents are encouraged to use the Library boxes in the Foundation Stage Unit. These boxes contain books that are suitable to read to children so they can get used to print and stories. Parents should encourage children to point to words as they are being read. Discussion about the books is also important, picture books help to develop children's vocabulary and 'tell a story from a picture'.

**Children reading to an adult**

**When they are ready to**, children will start bringing simple books home to read to an adult. Again, encouraging the child to point to the words as they are being read is important. Discussing the story and the characters and asking questions about the book will help with the child's understanding of language. Sessions around 'Chatterbags' will be held by staff in the Foundation Unit to help with language development and reading skills.

**How much time should be spent on homework?**

Foundation Stage 2 (Sunflowers and Daffodils)	Approx 15 minutes per day (depending upon the child's level) on Reading based activities.
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**Homework in Key Stage1 (Year 1 and 2)**

For children in Key Stage 1, we encourage parents to work together with their child to support them with their homework. The emphasis remains on Literacy and reading, but we include ways in which children can be supported with important Mathematical skills.

**Reading**

Reading on a regular basis is vital when children are in Year 1 and 2. Children will bring their Reading books home every evening and the role of the adult is to listen and support them with this please. It is important to remind them to use different ways to try 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 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.

**Spelling**

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 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.

### **Numeracy (Mathematics)**

Children will not receive set work in Maths, however, there are important skills that children should have in place by the time they leave Key Stage 1. Parents can support their child by giving them lots of opportunities to practise these skills.

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

### **How much time should be spent on homework?**

(This may vary depending on the time of year).

Years 1 and 2	10-15 minutes reading daily, 5 minutes daily on spellings; Homework is generally sent on Fridays.
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### **Homework in Key Stage 2 (Years 3,4,5 and 6)**

As children get older, homework provides an opportunity for them to develop the skill of independent learning. It is important that parents support their children, but good habits of independent study should be encouraged. The main focus for homework in Key Stage 2 continues to be English and Mathematics, however children will be given more varied tasks in other areas of the curriculum.

### **What type of work will my child get?**

#### **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.

#### **Literacy (English)**

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

#### **Numeracy (Mathematics)**

This will also be based around what the children will be learning in class. The work could be linked to lessons on shape, measures or handling data. Lots of the activities will be based around number work. Children will be asked to make sure they know their tables:

