



Beeches Infant School

Homework Policy

At Beeches Infant School our homework policy aims to provide a clear, consistent framework.

Home-school co-operation

Although as educators we place great value on independent work completed out of school, we recognise that everybody needs to relax at the end of a busy day. The experiences children have outside of school are major factors in shaping their attitudes, interest and outlook on life and for this reason we would encourage all parents to give their children opportunities to participate in activities and clubs which interest them.

By maintaining a consistent approach to homework and providing a channel for communication between home and school, we hope to strengthen our mutual co-operation for the benefit of the children.

Why have homework?

Research shows that where purposeful homework is provided and there is a positive and active partnership between home and school, a child's attainment is improved. By providing tasks which complement school work and take account of individual ability, teachers can help children to make quicker progress and to achieve better results.

What is the purpose of homework?

Homework has several purposes and may vary according to the age of the child and task in hand. At PBI it is our intention during the course of a child's time with us to provide opportunities to:

- practise and consolidate skills introduced in class
- prepare for future classwork
- communicate with parents about their child
- allow parents to become involved in their child's learning
- strengthen links between home and school

What can I expect for my child?

Reading

All children are encouraged to read regularly. For younger children, this may involve reading to, or discussing and sharing a book, with your child. Older children may read independently, but parents can be involved by asking about the book, who the characters are, whether your child is enjoying it etc. Children can broaden their experience by reading a whole range of other reading materials, e.g. non-fiction books, recipes, magazines, TV listings, computer programs, Ceefax, signs, instructions for games, captions etc., so they begin to understand that reading is an important necessary skill in everyday life.

Other tasks

The type of homework, the frequency and time it takes to complete will vary depending on the task and the age of the child. No single activity should take longer than 15 minutes in Key Stage 1. Some work, such as spellings and multiplication tables, are best learnt by practising them 'little and often'.

Below is a guide to the variety of homework tasks which may be given to children in each year group during the year. All year groups will issue a copy of a topic overview at the beginning of each term.

Foundation Stage

Please help your child with reading and to share the love of books. Children will be learning letter sounds in school and these will be sent home along with words. They will have both a library book which is self-chosen and a reading book. Sometimes the homework focus will be connected to maths or handwriting. School subscribes to 'Bug Club' where children can read online books and

complete activities related to their ability and what they have read. Children and parents can access this from home. Every child will be set up on Tapestry, an online learning journal. Parents are able to see photographs of their child's achievements in school and are invited to send school a postcard of the learning at home.

Year One

All children will have a reading book as well as a library book. A list of the Letters and Sounds phase words will be issued. One differentiated maths piece of work or phonics will be sent home weekly and occasionally you will be asked for something specific relating to the thematic topic. As an incentive for children to complete and return their homework, Year 1 will receive a certificate after 5 completed pieces of homework. In addition to this you have daily access to 'Bug Club' where children can read online books and complete activities related to their ability and what they have read.

Year Two

All children will have a reading book as well as a library book. One differentiated maths work will be sent home weekly and occasionally you will be asked for something specific relating to the thematic topic. In addition to this you have daily access to 'Bug Club' where children can read online books and complete activities related to their reading ability. School also subscribes to 'Purple Mash' where children can complete activities related to different areas of the curriculum, using their individual log in's and password. Spellings will be sent home later on in the school year.

What will teachers do?

- Continue to communicate with parents
- Discuss any problems with the child (or parent, if appropriate) as they arise
- Make instructions clear and easy to follow
- Keep to agreed days and times for setting and collecting work where possible
- Give work which allows children to reinforce, improve or extend learning
- Provide tasks which are matched to a child's ability
- Vary the tasks to make the work more stimulating and enjoyable
- Explain clearly the purpose of the task and how to complete it
- Give children feedback about completed tasks
- Encourage all children through praise and recognition of individual efforts
- Keep a record of homework returned each week

How can parents help?

- Support the homework policy by working in partnership with your child and his/her teacher
- Ensure work is received from/returned to school
- Get your child settled in a suitable place to work away from distractions and at an appropriate time of day
- Encourage your child to complete the work neatly, to the best of his/her ability (but don't do it for them!)
- Listen to spellings/tables, read instructions to your child where necessary
- Share the love of books
- If your child is in Reception, send us postcards of their learning at home.

What can children do to help themselves?

- Remember to take the work home and bring it back on time
- Ensure you know what to do before you take work home and ask your teacher for help if you don't know what to do
- Make your parents aware you have homework
- Present your work as neatly as possible
- Attempt the work first before asking for help at home