

Beaconsfield Primary School

'Shining a Light on Learning'



- B** - **Belief**
- P** - **Perseverance**
- S** - **Success**

Homework Policy & Expectations

September 2019

Review date:

September 2022

Homework Policy and Expectations

- a) Homework tasks should be set **regularly** and may also be set during school holiday periods.
- b) Individual class teachers can decide which day/s of the week homework is set and returned but this must be **communicated clearly to parents/carers** at the start of each academic year (or when a child starts school for mid-year admissions) using the proforma in **Appendix 1**.
- c) Teachers must **clearly explain** the homework tasks to children when it is given out. Children should be encouraged to complete the homework independently when possible but also to ask for support at home or at school when they are finding a task difficult. Politely remind parents/carers when appropriate that homework should be completed by the child and **not** an adult/older sibling.
- d) Within reason, homework tasks should be **differentiated** in order to meet the individual needs of the children.
- e) Teachers should set **clear expectations about presentation** of homework. Whenever possible, work should be completed in the homework book and not on loose sheets of paper. This results in better quality of work, improved presentation and gives the children space to show their working out etc.
- f) A weekly **homework register** will need to be kept for each class. This will be monitored periodically by SLT.
- g) Reading is an expected part of homework for all children. Reading should take place on a minimum of 5 nights each week. Pupils are expected to read for a minimum of 20 minutes. This should be recorded in the pupil reading record and signed at home by an adult. Reading records should be **collected in and checked on a regular basis** to ensure reading is taking place at home as expected. A record of this can be kept with the weekly homework register. The class teacher **MUST** ensure the child's home reading book is changed regularly and is of an appropriate level of difficulty for the child.
- h) Project books are used by pupils from Year 1 to Year 6 throughout the year. If a project task is set, this will include a series of research tasks to be completed over the course of a longer period (often a half term) which develop children's skills across a range of foundation subjects. For example, a project on 'The Romans' would include history objectives but could also develop children's geography skills (locating the countries in the Roman Empire) or art/DT skills (investigating Roman architecture). The project can build on children's learning in school but should also encourage some independent research. Please ensure children **DO NOT** just copy large amounts of text from websites which they do not understand as this does not further their learning. Teachers can decide whether to set all the tasks involved in the project at the beginning of the half term and then monitor the books at regular intervals such as every 1-3 weeks or to give out one task each week.
- i) Homework (including project books) **must be marked regularly and feedback given** to the children about 'next steps' in their learning. Teaching assistants can support teachers in marking homework but should give timely feedback about any issues that have arisen. For many homework tasks, peer marking (in purple pen) may be appropriate as the work is reviewed/discussed in class however the class teacher should monitor this closely to ensure work is marked accurately and appropriate feedback is given to address misconceptions.

Suggested time allocations for homework each week:

Reception:	30 minutes
Year 1:	30 – 40 minutes
Year 2:	45 – 60 minutes
Year 3:	60 – 75 minutes
Year 4:	75 – 90 minutes
Year 5:	75 – 90 minutes
Year 6:	90 – 120 minutes

Weekly homework expectations in EYFS

1. **Reading Homework:** Children will start bringing home books to read with an adult. Reading should take place daily as this will support children to develop their phonic knowledge and enhance their language comprehension. Parent workshops will give guidance to parents on the importance of pointing to the word being read and discussing the story and the characters in order to help with the child's understanding of language.
2. **Maths Homework:** A weekly activity which links to what the children are learning or will be learning in the classroom. This should take 10 – 15 minutes, i.e. recognising numerals, a counting activity, a shape hunt or a shopping trip using money.
3. **English Homework:** A weekly activity to consolidate what the children have been learning in Phonics. Children will take home word lists which are linked to the Jolly Phonics Scheme. Parents will be encouraged to help their child to learn to spell and read these words by playing games such as snap or matching pairs, looking out for these words in reading books and it will also be useful to practise writing these words.

Weekly homework expectations in KS1 and KS2

1. **Spellings (taken from the Assertive Mentoring spelling programme and National Curriculum Word Lists for each year group):** It is important that children are explicitly taught the spelling rules covered in each weekly homework sheet and that they understand the meaning of the words they are learning. Children should be tested on these words each week and gaps in their learning should be addressed.
2. **Times Tables (in accordance with the Times Tables policy):** This will include learning times tables in order (bronze level), in any order (silver level) and learning the associated division facts (gold level). Children should be tested on their times table knowledge regularly.
3. **Reading Homework:** Reading should take place on a minimum of 5 nights each week. Pupils are expected to read for a minimum of 20 minutes. This should be recorded in the pupil reading record and signed at home by an adult.
4. **Writing Homework (including grammar and punctuation):** This will consolidate and extend the learning in connection with the work carried out in class.
5. **Maths Homework:** This will consolidate and extend the learning in connection with the work carried out in class.
6. **Project Homework (when set):** The project will include a series of research tasks to be completed over the course of the half term which develop children's skills across a range of foundation subjects.

Weekly homework expectations in the ARP classes

As a school, we maintain high expectations for all children within the Additionally Resourced Provision therefore wherever possible and appropriate, children within the ARP will complete homework in line with age related expectations for mainstream classes as set out in this policy. Homework tasks will be adapted when necessary in order to meet the needs of the child.

Homework may be given by ARP teachers and/or mainstream teachers of the classes in which integration is taking place. In addition to homework, parents and carers may be asked to carry out tasks at home which have been identified by school staff or outside agencies as beneficial in helping the child to meet particular targets.

Procedures when homework is not completed:

- 1st occasion - Verbal warning from class teacher (missed work should be completed)
- 2nd occasion - Send home standard letter (see Appendix 2) stating dates (from register) that homework was not returned.
- 3rd occasion - 2nd letter to parents including a warning (see Appendix 3) about meeting in school if home work is missed again.

4th occasion - Meeting with Deputy Head Teacher or Assistant Head Teacher

5th occasion - Meeting with Head Teacher

Meetings can only take place once these steps have been followed and where an up to date class register has been kept.