

Beaconsfield Primary School

'Shining a Light on Learning'



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

Home Learning

September 2023

Home Learning

Educational research and longitudinal studies have shown that 'homework' has very little impact for pupils in primary school, unless it requires them to rehearse and practise e.g. reading skills and rapid recall of facts. Some research also tells us that 'homework' may actually broaden the gaps between groups of pupils. The regular school day already demands high levels of work and engagement upon pupils and there is a need for them to enjoy their childhood and have a break from formal learning when at home.

Our "Home Learning" expectations are based upon this research and therefore we will only be encouraging pupils to practise key skills that need consolidating within their age group. What has the most potential impact is talking to others, sharing ideas and explaining concepts. These activities cannot be shown or demonstrated through completion of worksheets. We are also mindful that family life is busy and there are many competing demands on family time outside of school hours.

Principles:

- The principles which underpin our home learning approach are:
- An understanding that learning can and does continue beyond the school.
- Home learning is an opportunity for families to become active partners in supporting their child's learning
- Opportunities to repeat, explain, share and explain concepts and skills helps these to 'stick'
- Reading regularly and widely should be the most important part of home learning
- Basic maths skills, such as number bonds/ times tables/ using 'time' should be regularly practiced
- Spelling patterns (including phonics sounds) and key words should be regularly practiced
- Wider activities such as parks/ museums/ outings/ libraries are valuable parts of home learning

Suggested Home Routines:

- Reading regularly (ideally 5-7 times weekly), either being listened to or reading independently
- Weekly revision of number bonds/ number facts/ time tables (appropriate to year group)
- Phonics activities (EYFS/ KS1 pupils)
- Weekly spelling/ phonic patterns with related words (appropriate to year group)
- Encouraged to engage with other online school resources

Reading:

Research shows that pupils who read regularly for pleasure do better at school and make more progress across the curriculum, have an increased vocabulary and are healthier and happier with better wellbeing and self-esteem. At Beaconsfield Primary School, we prioritise reading and encourage pupils to read for pleasure at both home and school.

- **EYFS and KS1 pupils will be given the following books to take home each week:**
 - 2 X 'decodable' books that pupils will be able to read themselves.
These books are carefully matched to your child's phonic-stage so that they can practise the sounds they know and build fluency.
 - 1 X 'Ready, Steady, Read!' book that pupils can enjoy listening to a parent/carer read.
These books open up valuable opportunities for talk, develop core listening skills and support your child in developing a love of books.

- **KS2 pupils will be given the following books to take home each week:**

- 1-2 X 'decodable' OR 'book-band' books, as appropriate, that your child will be able to read independently.

These books are matched to your child's reading stage so that they can build reading fluency and practise core comprehension skills .

- 1 X 'Ready, Steady, Read!' book.

These have been carefully selected to link to the curriculum and support your child in developing a love of books.

Any 'decodable' books that are taken home by Reception, KS1 and Year 3 pupils will be recorded in a Home Reading Record. This provides a record of books that have been read and has space for parents/carers to comment on their child's reading should they wish to. There is an information sheet stuck to the inside cover of the Home Reading Record that provides some helpful guidance on how to support reading at home.

All pupils in the EYFS, KS1 and KS2 will be provided with a list of 40 'Ready, Steady, Read!' texts for their year group. There is space next to each text for them (or parents/carers for younger pupils) to write a short book review. Certificates will be awarded as part of the challenge once 10, 20 30 and 40 books have been read.

To further support our pupils in developing a love of books, our well-stocked school library is open every morning from 8:30am to 8:50am for pupils to visit with a parent/carer. During this time they can spend time reading together and borrow up to two books at a time which they can take to enjoy reading at home. There are also some PCs available for pupils to use to complete online home learning activities if they wish to do so.

Pupils with additional needs:

Pupils with additional needs will need to have regular exposure to vocabulary through reading. Please where possible sit and read with your child. If your child is pre-verbal they can still be read to regularly by an adult.

For pupils with speech and language targets, you can work on these with your child at home. These are shared with parents via email. If your child is able to access within the range of age-related learning then please refer to their key stage in this document.

Year 6:

Our oldest pupils in Year 6 who are preparing for national tests (revising learning and skills from Y3 to Y6) along with getting ready for high school will have a different look to their home learning expectations. Year 6 staff will outline expectations and procedures at the initial meeting in early September.

We also use revision guide books (provided by the school) to support the revision of key skills and topics across the time in Year 6.

Difficulties with home learning:

Families are encouraged to speak to class teachers where pupils are unable or unwilling to complete home learning activities. Families are busy places with competing time constraints outside of the school day due to adult work patterns, clubs and other activities and managing multiple children if in larger families so please do inform staff if there are difficulties and try to always prioritise 'reading activities'.

Home learning activities are primarily for completion at home, but staff will offer support and guidance to try and identify why some pupils may be reluctant to engage in home learning activities. School also runs a regular series of coffee mornings across the school year with many topics covering aspects of supporting reading, maths and IT skills at home along with positive home routines.