



Homework Policy

Updated May 2024

Homework is a valuable part of the learning process for every child. Our homework policy aims to develop an effective partnership between the school, children, parents and other carers.

OFSTED says that at an OUTSTANDING school - *Teachers set challenging homework, in line with the school's policy and as appropriate for the age and stage of pupils, that consolidates learning, deepens understanding and prepares pupils very well for work to come.*

Homework at Bridgewater Primary School:

- Consolidates and reinforces skills and understanding, particularly in English and Maths
- Exploits resources for learning, of all kinds, at home
- Extends school learning, for example through additional reading
- Encourages pupils to develop the confidence and self discipline needed to study on their own, and prepares them for future learning
- Provides opportunities for children to plan and organise time and develop a range of skills in identifying and using information resources.

The benefits for pupils include:

- A sense of responsibility for their own learning
- Improved pupil self-confidence and motivation
- Increased ability to study independently
- Consolidation of school learning
- Improved academic success

The benefits for parents include:

- The opportunity to share in their child's learning
- The opportunity to show an interest in their child's education
- Greater opportunity to monitor their child's progress

Our Guidelines

Below are the school's guidelines for how much work children of different ages should do at home:

- Years 1 and 2: 30-60 minutes per week
- Years 3 and 4: 60- 90 minutes per week
- Years 5 and 6: 30 minutes a day

It doesn't matter if activities don't take as long as the guide times as long as they are useful.

Early Years Homework:

It is expected that children in the Early Years will read their reading books and practice their key words/phonic sounds with their parents every night. We ask that parents comment on their child's reading in their reading record and send reading books in to school every day so teachers and teaching assistants can monitor your child's reading development and send home appropriate books and word lists.

Weekly homework activities for children in the Early Years will be based around their development towards the Early Learning Goals.

Key Stages 1 and 2 Homework:

Daily Homework

It is expected that children read every night at home. Books should be in school every day and will be monitored by teachers and teaching assistants. We ask that parents comment on their child's reading in their reading record to confirm that reading has been completed. Key words and spellings will also be sent home to help consolidate the reading and writing of high frequency words and spelling rules.

Weekly Homework

On a Friday children will receive English and Maths homework pitched at their ability, relating directly to learning in class that week. Reinforcement of basic skills may also be set. Homework must be returned to school on the day set by their class teacher. Teachers will always explain the homework task(s) in class and give an example of any calculation work for parents to reference. If children need further support/explanation to complete their homework, they must speak to their teacher before the day homework is expected to be handed in.

Homework Adaptations

Homework activities will be adapted by teachers (where appropriate), so that all children are able to access and complete their homework. When appropriate, these adaptations will be linked to the learning objective contained within the main piece of homework set for the rest of the class and will reflect adaptations in line with curriculum policies.

Additional Homework Challenges

Children in Reception, KS1 and KS2 will be provided with an additional challenge sheet each term, which will give the children the opportunity to further develop skills across the curriculum. Each completed challenge will be rewarded with a Children's University Credit (Years 1-6) or a prize awarded by the class teacher (Reception). This is optional.

Project Homework

An open-ended project linked to Science or Topic work will be sent home over the holidays. This is optional.

Helping Your Child with Homework

- We ask that parents and carers ensure their child completes any homework tasks set to a high standard and returns it to school on time.
- Providing a quiet workspace is helpful for children when completing their work.
- It is important for your child to become more independent in their learning and they should be able to do their homework without input from an adult/minimal input for younger children in the EYFS and Key Stage 1.
- Homework will be explained to the class in full and is usually consolidation of learning from the week before. Your child CAN do it – don't let them fool you about this. If your child is genuinely unable to complete the work set, please ask them to inform their class teacher BEFORE it's due to be handed in and they will explain the homework again to your child. However, your child is likely to get more out of an activity if you get involved, as long as you don't take over too much.
- Children at KS2 will be sanctioned if homework is not completed. Please support teachers with this policy.
- If you are unsure about what your role should be, please call in and discuss this with the class teacher.

Marking

Homework should always be marked before the following Friday and returned home for parents to see with the next homework.

Non-Returned Homework

At KS2 - If homework does not come back into school, the child will be asked to complete their homework during golden time – this is a time where all children get to choose from a range of activities each Friday. If this is a persistent problem, a meeting will be arranged with parents and the Headteacher.