

Butlers Hill Infant & Nursery School **Homework Policy**

Butlers Hill Infant School aims to maintain and develop strong home and school links. We believe that through effective communication with the home, attainment levels can be raised. Homework can provide the ideal vehicle for establishing firm working relationships where the responsibility of education is shared between the home and school.

Aims

- To provide a link between the school and the home.
- To ensure that parents are very clear about what their child is expected to do, how long it will take and how they can support their child.
- To ensure parents understand how homework changes as children get older, as they become more independent, preparing them for a smooth transition to Key Stage 2 and beyond.
- To ensure tasks are carefully planned and structured to support progression in learning.
- That there is a regular programme so everyone knows what to expect each week.
- That children and parents receive appropriate feedback through brief marking and comments where appropriate. (*homework folders provided*)
- That there is a consistency throughout the school in setting homework and providing feedback
- To ensure parents and carers have opportunities to feedback and make comments about their child's learning and the level of support given.

Purpose of Homework

- To improve the quality of the learning experience offered to children.
- To develop a partnership between the school and parents in pursuit of the aims of the school.
- To provide opportunity for parents and children to work together to enjoy learning experiences.
- To provide opportunities for consolidating, re-inforcing skills and understanding, particularly in English and Maths.
- To encourage children, as they grow older, to develop confidence and self-discipline needed to study on their own without the presence of a teacher.
- To evaluate the effectiveness of classroom practice.
- To contribute towards the challenge of raising attainment
- Inform and promote the interest of parents in the wider community.
- To increase recognition of the role parents have in co-educating their children.

Outline of Homework Tasks

Nursery

Nursery pupils are encouraged to regularly borrow a library book from school to share with the parent/carer. Once children are ready they will also be given a banded reading scheme book. Children are given phonemes that they have been learning in school (e.g. S A T P I N). Additional homework is also provided on an optional basis which is related to the current topic. Children are encouraged to bring in an item for show and tell on rota basis to encourage speaking and listening. In preparation for the transition into

school children receive speaking and listening cards to encourage pre-reading skills. Children are supplied with individual passwords for them to carry out differentiated tasks on the Education City website, which can be numeracy or literacy based.

Reception

Children receive banded reading scheme books, key words and spellings (as and when appropriate for individual children). Children are given a personal password for them to carry out numeracy or literacy based activities on the Education City website. Children are encouraged to complete a SEAL homework activity once every half term and a creative homework once a term which links in with the current topic.

At Key Stage One

Children will be given weekly spellings (Spring Term for Year 1), a banded reading book differentiated to each child's reading level and a Maths Task. The Maths task usually focus on developing children's fluency with known facts and times tables. This can then be differentiated for each child as the child can become more accurate with each of the four practice columns or, when fluent, faster by timing themselves. Children are supplied with individual passwords for them to carry out differentiated tasks on the Education City website, which can be numeracy or literacy based. However, other activities may be given for other curriculum areas e.g. science. Children will also often receive reading comprehension activities to deepen their reading skills. Key stage one children also carry out a half termly SEAL homework and a termly creative homework based on the current topic. Creative homework is celebrated in a special assembly for the whole school. Creative homework tasks are differentiated for pupils as needing lots of support, some support or no support to accommodate children's different learning styles and needs.

Our recommended weekly timings:

R/Year 1 - Reading with adult support for a minimum of 10 minutes at least three times per week and up to 20 minutes a week on other activities; for example spelling and maths which could spread over the week.

Year 2 - Reading with adult support for 10 minutes at least three times per week and up to 20 minutes per week on other activities, for example spelling and maths, which could be spread over the week. Year 2 also provide a weekly homework club held during one lunchtime per week. This is to support children who persistently do not return homework on a regular basis.

The role of class teacher

- To provide an outline to parents of the homework tasks for their class together with guidance on how they might help their children.
- To set up regular homework in an easily followed routine (*date given for when homework is to be completed by*).
- To provide opportunities for parents to discuss their child's work.
- To check that the homework is meeting pupils needs.
- To be sensitive towards home backgrounds and take into account resources needed to complete homework tasks.

- Monitor and record homework received on weekly basis and issue letters to parents/carers if work is persistently not completed.
- Provide pupil certificates to pupils who consistently complete homework tasks (*termly basis*).

Role of Headteacher

- To check compliance with policy.
- To meet with parents if appropriate.
- To discuss with staff how far policy is being successfully implemented.
- To reward pupils for regularly undertaking and returning homework tasks.

Role of parents and carers in support of children

- To provide a suitable place where the child can do their homework.
- To make it clear to the child that they value homework and support them in explaining how it can help with their learning.
- To encourage and praise the children when they have completed their homework.
- To become actively involved in homework activities.
- To check for homework on a weekly basis and inform class teacher if homework appears to be missing.
- To support, clarify and motivate but not to do their child's homework task.
- To complete the feedback box on their child's homework box stating if it was done with support, some support or no support.
- To provide feedback in the comments section of the homework when appropriate.

Special Needs

Opportunities will be created for every child to succeed, tasks may need to be varied in line with any IEPs.