

Introduction

We define homework as any activity that pupils undertake outside of school lesson time, either on their own or with the support of family members. At Beckstone Primary School, we have a strong commitment to parental involvement and see homework as one way of developing this partnership. We also provide homework support in our Breakfast Club and in Beckstone Extra, our after school provision.

Why give homework?

- It can inform parents about work going on in class
- It can further stimulate enthusiasm for learning
- It takes advantage of the home environment and resources and the chance for some one to one adult time
- It can be a great source for gathering topic information to share with all the children
- It is a great opportunity to rehearse key skills such as times tables, doubling facts, addition sums, spellings, handwriting and other key facts
- It helps to foster good habits of organization and self-discipline in preparation for the demands of Secondary School.

Homework at our school

Whilst we support all of the above key principles, Beckstone Primary is not a school in which homework dominates home and school life. We accept that not every activity will capture children and parents' imagination and that weekends can sometimes be busy. We believe that homework should be enjoyable and manageable for all concerned and that if it becomes a chore/burden/source of conflict it ceases to be a constructive aspect of teaching and learning. We do not specify amounts of time that must be spent on a task, preferring individual children and families to set their own routines. Individual teachers are happy to give advice.

We hope the children are motivated by positive incentives and by the tasks themselves; children are not punished if they fail to complete the work. However discreet homework registers are kept and if a child consistently fails to complete and return tasks, this is discussed with the child and their parents.

Our routines

All classes give out weekly homework on a Friday. If it is a piece that needs handing in, it is expected to be returned by the following Wednesday. The work should always have been explained and discussed in class before coming home; it maybe a continuation of classwork, or a maths games already familiar to your child. It is our intention, and good practice, not to send work home that the child cannot already do i.e. parents are not expected to teach new skills. There should be a clear explanation/reminder from the teacher of what is expected. Each child has a homework book or folder and the majority of tasks are kept in there. Work that needs marking (and is not feeding into other classwork) will be returned to the folder. This should happen each week. The tasks set will not always need to be handed in; there are other ways in which teachers will respond or give feedback, for example, sharing results in class discussion, putting work onto a display or transferring work into class books.

Our current expectations

Nursery

Parents are encouraged to read a variety of books to their children and to change their reading books daily. They are also encouraged to use everyday situations for counting and communication with their children.

Parents are regularly given information about the work being covered and offered ideas about how to develop them at home. Parents are also given

skills based targets on reports and provided with information on how to help prepare their child for full time school.

Reception

Reading books and tricky words are taken home daily and letters and sounds are regularly sent home for children to practise. Parents are given skills based targets and are encouraged learn rhymes and play counting games with their children.

KS1

Reading books and Reading Records should be taken home daily. Children who read five times a week are rewarded by being entered into our Strive for Five Raffle. Weekly Friday homework will consist of one piece of basic skills maths practise and a reading comprehension. Learning Challenge homework may be given over longer holidays. Y2 children may work on specific spellings in order to prepare for SATs.

KS2

Reading books and Reading Records should be taken home daily. Accelerated Reader is used by the children to ensure their comprehension is secure. Weekly Friday homework will consist of one piece of maths – focusing on calculation or times tables and a reading comprehension. Learning Challenge homework may be given over longer holidays. As children prepare for SATs in KS2, homework will focus on preparing children for the demands of these tests and the format of questions.

We expect children to maintain the same standards for presentation of homework as we set in school i.e. to use their best handwriting and a sharp pencil or blue pen.

How staff at Beckstone Primary School support this policy:

- by providing a range of homework tasks and activities to consolidate and extend learning in class
- by ensuring that the children have a clear understanding of the tasks involved and a common understanding of the high expectations held of them individually, according to their ability
- by communicating with parents and keeping them informed of children's progress, projects and topics to be studied, and their child's individual targets.

How parents can help to support children:

- provide somewhere peaceful for children to work without the distractions of television, other family members and pets
- provide a suitable place, equipped with a comfortable chair, clear table space, good light
- provide encouragement and support to children when they require it
- support the school in explaining to children that homework is valued and aids learning
- encourage pupils and praise them when homework is completed
- be actively involved in the homework of younger children in particular

If a holiday is taken during term-time, something we actively discourage, parents may not request work from the teacher. We suggest that parents organise a holiday diary.

Pupils are expected to:

- make full use of all the opportunities they are presented with
- tackle home tasks promptly and with a positive attitude
- take pride in presentation and content, acknowledging the high personal standard expected

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- be organised so that necessary books and equipment are not left at school
- be responsible for handing the work in on time

Special Needs

When planning for Homework, we take in to account the wide range of abilities, aptitudes and interests of all the children. Those who do have difficulty in making progress through the curriculum will be given extra support through differentiated work so that they can play a full part in activities.

Provision for gifted and talented

We provide for the more able children as a result of early identification of ability and through teacher observation and assessment. Children, who appear to have a particular aptitude for a certain subject, will be given extra challenges in their homework where appropriate, to extend their thinking and learning.

ICT

The school website hosts links to several school subscriptions for home access for Education City and Mathletics. There is a comprehensive Revisewise system operating for our Y6 pupils to help them in preparation for the annual SATs. There are also various recommended sites for children to enjoy and support their learning.

What to do if you have concerns

If you find the homework inappropriate for your child, if they lack interest, if it becomes a battleground or if you are concerned that homework is given inconsistently please talk with your child's teacher in the first instance.

If you still have concerns, please talk with David Warbrick, the Headteacher.



Beckstone
Primary School



Homework Policy