

Homework Policy

Introduction

Homework is anything that children do outside the normal school day that contributes to their learning in response to guidance from school. Homework encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents to support children's learning and development.

Aims

We aim to create a partnership between parents/carers and teachers, engaging and informing parents/carers, creating opportunities for high quality interactions between home and school and working collaboratively to enhance children's learning and development. Homework should be designed to engage and inspire children as well as enhancing the school and wider curriculum. Wherever possible it should reflect and complement our values of *collaboration, effort, excellence and respect*.

We aim to:

- Enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and personal development
- Promote a partnership between home and school in supporting each child's learning
- Engage and inspire children
- Support children in their retention of learning
- Consolidate and reinforce learning done in school and to allow children to practice skills taught in lessons
- Provide educational experiences beyond school
- Help pupils develop the skills of an independent learner
- Help children develop good work habits for the future

Types of Homework

Reading

Reading is of highest priority. There is strong evidence that reading for pleasure and early reading success has a significant impact on a child's experiences of school and long term academic success. It is vital that children read at home at least 5 times a week and listen to stories. Research also shows that children who are regularly read to at home have significantly greater vocabularies and word understanding.

We provide reading books, closely matched to children's phonic knowledge, reading skills and development needs and ask that parents record each time they have read with their child on our Seesaw App for Reception children and in the Reading Record book for Year 1 and Year 2 children. Children are also able to select books from the school library for sharing at home.

Phonics

In Reception phonetically decodable reading books (Collins Big Cat Phonics) are sent home once the first six phonemes have been taught in school. These books closely match the child's phonics achievements. Corresponding online phonics activities are then sent home on Seesaw to help practise and consolidate the phonemes taught in school (three times a week). We also send guidance for parents/ carers on how best to help their child at home with reading and phonics.

In Year 1 children bring home a 'Phonics Practice Book' each week. Inside the book are the discrete phonemes taught and lists of words containing that particular phoneme. Children are asked to read these words with their parents/ carers at home. The book also contains 'common exception words' for the children to learn to read and write. Online phonics games are sent home on Seesaw to practise the phonemes taught in school.

In Year 2 spellings will be sent home each week in a spelling book. The spellings will include taught phonics as well as 'sight words'. Children can practise in any way that they find engaging (please see the inside of the book cover for some ideas). Optional spelling games will also be uploaded to Seesaw Each Friday.

Maths

In Reception maths activities are sent home via Seesaw. The maths activities may include songs, rhymes or online games to help children practise and retain the skills and knowledge they have been learning in school. Themed shared activities for children to complete with their parents/ carers will be set on Seesaw at the relevant time of the year (e.g. seasonal maths activities such as collecting and counting conkers in autumn).

Maths homework will be sent out on a Friday in a homework book in book bags. Homework is designed to consolidate already taught content and therefore should not be too challenging. To supplement this, optional maths games are added to Seesaw weekly.

Topic

In Reception each child's Learning Journey is documented on Seesaw. We give parents/ carers suggested questions/ conversation starters underneath our Seesaw posts so that they can ask their children at home about the activities that we have been doing in school. This is to encourage discussion and talk. We add seasonal activities to Seesaw at the relevant time of year too. These can be activities that the whole family can do, linked to our topic, that the children can share with others in school. A pack containing the science magazine 'Whizz, Pop, Bang!' and a scrapbook is sent home every Friday with one child from each class. This is to share with parents/ carers and any activities can be completed or photographs taken of what has been done at home and then shared in the scrapbook.

We use Seesaw as a tool to communicate with you and share some of the learning that takes place in school. Please check Seesaw regularly to celebrate your children's successes.

Challenges and Opportunities

Additional opportunities capitalise on school initiatives and national events to broaden children's experiences, generate enthusiasm and promote collaboration, community cohesion and school identity. Examples of these include World Book Day videos of children reading an extract from a favourite book, 'Reading Rock' challenges, Women in Science Day home videos shared via Seesaw, School Council healthy recipe competitions and links to local and national events and competitions.

The Banks Lane Infant Experience

Our wider curriculum or Banks Lane Infant Experience details the wider experiences we offer all children during their time at our school, inspirational opportunities and home experiences. This has been planned to complement our values and to promote a broad and rich curriculum. Children are able to achieve bronze, silver and gold awards for the home activities which are uploaded to Seesaw and shared with school. Tasks include, visiting the elderly, growing a plant, writing a shopping list, sending a postcard to school and reading to a teddy. The Banks Lane Experience can be seen on the school website.

Year Group	
Nursery	On a Friday we have a library loan session where children can choose a book and return it to Nursery the following week. Monday to

	<p>Thursday the library is open from 3pm till 3.30pm for parents to change library books themselves.</p> <p>Each half term we send home either a learning challenge / Home Activity Booklet. The learning challenge is an activity for children to enjoy completing with their grown up. Children bring the results in to Nursery to celebrate and share with their class. The Home Activity Booklets explain and suggest activities to complete at home - Dough Disco, Tales Toolkit, Phase 1 phonics and Number Fun.</p>
Reception	<p>Phonetically decodable reading books (Collins Big Cat Phonics) are sent home once the first six phonemes have been taught in school. Children are able to select their own library book from our school library each week to share with parents/ carers at home.</p> <p>Online phonics activities are posted on Seesaw, linked to the phonemes taught that week.</p> <p>Maths activities are sent home via Seesaw; songs, rhymes or online games to help children practise and retain the skills and knowledge they have been learning in school.</p> <p>Themed shared activities for children to complete with their parents/ carers are set on Seesaw at the relevant time of the year (e.g. seasonal maths activities such as collecting and counting conkers in autumn).</p> <p>‘Whizz, Pop, Bang!’ a science magazine is sent home with a child from each class every Friday.</p>
Year 1	<p>Maths homework is sent to parents on Seesaw each Friday and to be completed by the following Thursday. Class teachers will feedback with likes and/or comments.</p> <p>New phonics and common exception words sent home in home phonics books each Friday for children to practise on a daily basis.</p> <p>Children read colour book band books at home every day.</p> <p>Occasional topic homework will be sent home.</p>
Year 2	<p>Homework is set on a Friday and collected on the following Thursday. The children will have their reading books changed weekly (if read). This day is dependent upon the day that they have their group reading session and this could change weekly.</p> <p>The children also have access to our school library. We endeavour to change this once a week.</p>

Inclusion

Banks Lane Infant and Nursery School aims to provide access to a stimulating, broad and balanced curriculum, within a culture of high expectations, where every child is able to thrive and barriers are tackled.

Monitoring and Feedback

Teachers will monitor the success of homework set. They will evaluate the suitability of homework and vary it accordingly. Homework may be formally marked e.g. maths homework books or feedback may be in the form of motivational comments e.g. Seesaw posts.

Parents

Parents have a vital role to play in their child's education and homework is an important part of this process. We ask parents to encourage their child to complete the homework tasks that are set. We invite them to help their children as they feel necessary and provide them with the sort of environment that allows children to do their best.

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be monitored and reviewed by senior leaders and the Governing Board.