

AYLSHAM LEARNING FEDERATION

HOMEWORK POLICY BURE VALLEY SCHOOL

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Signed:

Chair

Introduction

Homework is anything that children do outside the normal school day that contributes to the children's learning in response to guidance from the school. Homework encompasses a wide variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents/carers to support children's learning. For example, a parent/carer who spends time reading a story to their child before bedtime is helping with homework.

Homework plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment, however we also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development. While homework is important, it should not prevent children from taking part in the wide range of out-of-school clubs and organisations that play an important part in the lives of many children. We are well aware that children spend more time at home than at school, and we believe they develop their skills, interests and talents to the full only when parents encourage them to make maximum use of the experiences and opportunities that are available outside of school.

Why give homework?

- It can inform parents/carers about learning 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 provides an opportunity to rehearse key skills such as times-tables, doubling facts, addition sums, spellings and handwriting.
- It helps to foster good habits of organisation and self-discipline in preparation for the homework demands of high school.

Homework expectations at Bure Valley School

All children will take books home to read mainly for enjoyment and practice and parents/carers will be encouraged to share the books by reading to the child as well as listening to them read. Their reading at home should be recorded in the planner provided by school.

Homework may also include learning times-tables and other activities that reinforce practical maths.

Homework will also include a weekly spelling blend focus.

Occasionally we ask children to take work home that they have started in school when we believe that they would benefit from spending further time on it.

It is expected that an additional piece of English and maths will go home each week. These will often be from provided books (currently published by CPG), but may come from other sources at the class teacher's discretion.

Projects complementing the "topics" taught in class may be given to be worked on over 3-4 weeks and shared with the rest of the class.

In year 5 and year 6 the amount of homework may increase and the children are expected to work more independently.

Children in year 6 will have additional revision homework to undertake. This is to support their preparation for the key stage 2 (KS2) SATs tests that occur in May.

All children are expected to take part in homework activities. If a class teacher is concerned that a child is not completing homework tasks regularly, parents/carers will be asked to discuss the reasons for this. If a child is unable to complete a weekly homework task for a particular reason (for example a big family event at the weekend), parents/carers are encouraged to let the class teacher know so that the child can be excused homework for that week.

If pupils are struggling with homework at home (for a variety of reasons) we can provide some dedicated time for homework support in school. Parents/carers are encouraged to speak to the class teacher so that the school is aware and can offer support.

Children with Special Education Needs

We set homework for all children as a normal part of school life. We ensure that all tasks set are appropriate to the ability of the child. We endeavour to adapt any task set so that all children can contribute in a positive way.

The role of parents/carers

Parents/carers have a vital role to play in their child's education, and homework is an important part of this process. We ask parents/carers 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. Parents/carers can support their child by providing a good working space at home, by enabling their child to visit the library regularly, and by discussing the work that their child is doing.

If parents/carers have any problems or questions about homework, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher. If their questions are of a more general nature, they should contact a senior leader, or the head of school. Finally, if parents/carers wish to make a complaint about the school homework policy or the way it is implemented, they should follow the school's complaint policy on the website.

Our routines and expectations

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 homework provided should always have been explained and discussed in class before coming home; it may be a continuation of classwork, or a maths game already familiar to your child. Sometimes teachers will post a reminder on the year groups' twitter feed.

It is our intention, and good practice, not to send work home that the child cannot already do i.e. parents/carers are not expected to teach new skills. There should be a clear explanation/reminder from the teacher of what is expected. Each child has two homework books to be kept in a strong plastic wallet along with their planner. This should happen each week. Teachers will respond or give feedback to completed homework in a variety of ways, including whole class discussion and feedback. Teachers will not tick and flick every piece of work or answer (see Feedback and Marking Policy).

To support home learning, and to reinforce the importance of homework, teachers have the discretion to keep pupils in for part of their lunchtime break to help them complete (or attempt) a homework task.

Monitoring and review

It is the responsibility of our Governing Board to agree and then monitor the school homework policy. This is done by the committee of the Governing Board that deals with curriculum issues. Parents/carers complete a questionnaire during the school's OFSTED inspection (and annually in between inspections), and our Governing Board pays careful consideration to any concern that is raised at that time, or in between OFSTED inspections, by any parent/carer.