



Home Learning Policy

DATE OF POLICY: October 2014

Home Learning Policy

We believe that home learning should be viewed as an essential part of education to support children's development as independent learners. Home Learning involves all year groups although it looks different according to age. It should not be a chore but an extension of a variety of school activities which provide opportunities for children to share their learning with their family. Home learning activities provide opportunities to take learning into an extended and personalised form not always available in the classroom e.g. measuring the height of family members for comparison in a science lesson. Alongside home learning activities, we acknowledge the important place of play and free time in a child's growth and development. We view home learning as encompassing a wide range of activities and below are just some examples:

- Reading with an adult
- A family visit to a place of interest
- Learning number facts
- Speaking and listening activities
- Writing opportunities
- Being an active member of a sports or activity club
- Playing board/traditional games
- Measuring activities including cooking
- Shopping and learning to use money

It can be seen from the examples above that home learning is a two way process – teachers may ask for tasks to be done at home but are delighted to learn about children's achievements in other aspects of their lives which can be celebrated within the classroom.

Guiding Principles

- The school will inform parents of the Home Learning Policy which is published on the school website
- The teachers will design activities that provide the opportunity for home and school to work together to support children's learning
- To provide opportunities for pupils and their families to enjoy learning experiences together
- The activities will consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding particularly in English and Maths
- The activities should not impact unreasonably on the development of family time and we recognise that our youngest children may be tired at the end of a school day
- Teachers will contact parents if home learning expectations are not being met by their child
- Staff are supportive of parents and can offer additional guidance as necessary

From FS1 to the end of Year 2 we hope that all families will be involved and supportive of their child's learning.

What the school will offer:

Parents have access to the curriculum for their child's year group through learning previews and published information on the school website.

When teachers set home learning they will make sure that:

- The activity is appropriate, relevant and clear to the children
- Time scales for the completion of an activity/piece of work are explicit
- Difficulties encountered by a child/children are dealt with swiftly

We increase the amount of home learning the children receive as they move through Key Stage 1 in preparation for life in Junior School and thereafter.

Home Learning Activities and Time Allocations

Year Group	Time Allocation	Possible Activities
FS1	Encourage your children to engage in an activity on a daily basis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bring in items of interest to support their learning • Share stories and rhymes together • Play number games and do puzzles together • Family visits to the library and places of interest • Cooking • See Learning Preview for other ideas
FS2	10 minutes each evening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Items to talk about in 'show and tell' sessions • Objects/photos to link with themed learning • High Frequency words to read/write and make sentences with – on-going • Reading together everyday • Playing board/traditional games, puzzles • Cooking • Reading to your child demonstrating expression and asking questions • Outdoor play – climbing, balancing, throwing, catching etc • See Learning Preview for information about which letters and sounds are being taught (autumn term). After Christmas this information will be sent home. • See Learning Preview for other ideas
Year 1	70mins each week* 20 minutes on the task included in the home learning book (After October Half Term for Year 1).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading together – every day • Flash cards – every week, as appropriate • Themed learning activities • Handwriting • Number bonds • Maths games • English/maths tasks
Year 2	90 mins each week* 20 minutes on the task included in the home learning book.	Home Learning Book to be used as appropriate. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading together – every day • Themed learning activities • Handwriting • Number bonds • Maths games • English/maths tasks

*If you find that it is regularly taking your child more time than this, please let the teacher know.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

Our home learning policy applies to all children at Bernards Heath. All children are challenged to suit their stage in the learning process.

The role of parents

It is very important that parents display a positive and encouraging attitude to home learning and value its importance. Parents need to listen to the child's explanation of what they have to do and discuss the activity together, deciding how much support is needed. If ever you need additional explanation please come and talk to us.

It is very important that you allocate time and if required, a quiet space, in order to support your child's home learning.

We appreciate that there may be a time when family circumstances prove too difficult to complete the home learning activities – if this does happen, please talk to your child's teacher so that they understand.

Feedback

Most home learning will be completed in the home learning book.

Feedback will take a variety of forms dependent upon the activity set, for example:

- Class discussion about the work
- Individual, verbal or written comments
- Activities based on items collected
- Home learning will always be acknowledged with a ✓

Parents are encouraged to give teachers feedback including:

- Notes attached to the work
- Verbal feedback at the end of the school day.
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This policy will be reviewed regularly and sent home to each family. This policy is also available on our website.