

Bellfield Primary School



Homework Policy

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What is Homework?

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.

Although non-statutory, Bellfield chooses to set homework and there is reference made to the setting of homework in the Ofsted Inspection Framework.

Why give homework?

Homework is a hotly-debated subject and there are many different views about the contribution it makes to a pupils' overall learning. We provide homework because we believe:

- It can inform parents about work that is going in in class;
- It can further stimulate enthusiasm for learning;
- It provides the opportunity for some one-to-one adult time;
- It can be a great source for gathering topic information to share with other pupils;
- It is a great opportunity to rehearse key skills such as times tables, spellings, reading and other key areas;
- It helps to foster good habits and prepares pupils for the demands of Secondary School and lifelong learning.

Homework at our school

Whilst we support all of the above key principles, we do not want homework to dominate home and school life. We accept that not every activity will capture children's imagination and that weekends and evenings can sometimes be extremely 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 should be spent on a task/activity, preferring individual children and families to set their own routines. Class teachers are always willing to provide advice and support with this.

We hope children are motivated by positive incentives and by the tasks/activities themselves. We encourage all children to complete some core basic skills practise at home, including reading and spellings. Additional homework for children in EYFS - Year 5 is optional. For children in Year 6, all homework is required to be returned by the given date to encourage them to become independent learners and responsible for they own academic study outside of school.

We have obtained the views of all stakeholders with regards to the type of homework we set.

Our routines and expectations

It has been agreed that every class will complete the following each week, which focuses on the key skills children need to practice regularly:

	Daily basic skills	Optional homework
Nursery	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Helping your child to learn how to use the toilet independently (daily)▪ Helping your child to learn how to put on and take off their own coat (daily)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 6 termly challenges These will be linked to the topic for the term and usually consist of 'fun' learning activities that can be completed as a family
Reception	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Daily reading (focussing on phonic skills) – (at least 4 times per week)▪ Monster words (these are the first set of key words your child needs to read) – to be practiced and rehearsed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 6 termly challenges (optional) These will be linked to the topic for the term and usually consist of 'fun' learning activities that can be completed as a family▪ Spellings - Some children will be ready to start more formal spelling practise in the summer term. They will practise spellings in school time, but any additional time spent will be of benefit.
Years 1-5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Daily reading (at least 4 times per week)▪ Spelling lists – to be practiced and rehearsed (these are tested in school)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Maths activities▪ Time table activities
Year 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Daily reading (at least 4 times per week)▪ Spelling lists – to be practiced and rehearsed (these are tested in school)▪ Weekly Maths questions in the style of the SATs tests (compulsory)	

Class teachers will identify times tables relevant to the year group and inform parents of this. They will send home activities, which help children, learn these in a range of different ways.

Children will be tested on their spellings and times tables on a Friday. We understand that family time is precious and have therefore taken the decision not to expect homework to be completed over the weekends (unless you wish to do this). We will, however, continue to set 'learning challenges/family projects' over the holidays but **THESE ARE OPTIONAL**. We know that some families enjoy this aspect of homework and want to encourage this to still take place.

Any additional homework, such as times tables and Maths activities, will be sent home on your child's Seesaw account. These will be sent on a Friday and need to be completed by the following Friday, giving your child a week to attempt them if they choose to.

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 your child struggles with it, please make contact with your child's teacher in the first instance.

Reviewer: Head of School