

Barnhill Primary School Homework Policy



Our pupils work extremely hard at school and their time at home is important for extra-curricular activities, relaxation and family time. We believe that our young people need time at home in the evenings and at the weekend that is not based on adult direction. This un-structured time will help extend their imaginative play, their creativity and to ensure mental well-being. We believe in setting only pieces of homework with a clear purpose, and do not intend homework to create any stress or pressure whatsoever. We hope that any homework we set can be a pleasant, shared experience in which parents and carers can be involved with their children's learning. It can be completed at each child's own pace, and we hope that adults at home feel able to know and say when enough is enough for their child at home, and not let homework overburden them.

We strongly believe that homework should *add* to classroom teaching rather than replace it, and that homework should be used to:

- Practise things that need on-going repetition (such as reading, number bonds, and multiplication tables).
- Consolidate and reinforce learning covered at school.
- Encourage children to become independent learners who can take responsibility for their own learning.

Aims

We aim to foster a consistent approach across the school and hope that homework is clear and straight-forward to complete, with the impact being seen in the children's learning and confidence in school. The homework activities which we feel will have the biggest impact on your child are reading and simple mental agility activities in numeracy.

Reading

Reading is a crucial life skill that is needed to access all areas of the curriculum and to develop a child's creative ideas. We cannot over-emphasise the importance of reading. We know that children who read, are read to and see others read regularly at home make quicker progress at school. Indeed, the OECD stresses the importance of this:

“The performance advantage among students whose parents read to them in their early school years is evident.”

If you need any support or advice in relation to reading at home please get in touch with us at school.

You should expect regular reading homework for your child. However, even when your child does not have set reading homework, we hope that reading and being read to, will become part of their daily routine. In the early years, we would encourage families to take advantage of the resources provided in the Read Write Count bags and practise any words and sounds as directed by class teachers. When children become more confident and fluent, please still read to them as well as letting them read independently. Listening to stories can have a huge benefit for literacy development.

Mental Agility in Numeracy and Multiplication Tables

Number bonds and multiplication tables need to be practised regularly. These are suitable curricular areas for practise at home. We have devised some general expectations for mental agility in numeracy and multiplication tables which are linked to the Curriculum for Excellence Levels. We would ask you to use this to help understand what to practise with your children, using as varied and creative ways as you wish. There may be homework set in relation to these areas but these expectation sheets have been devised in a way to let you practise at times that are convenient to you.

We would advise any adults who are supporting at home to encourage children to recall their multiplication tables randomly, not purely by rote learning. An easy way to do this is to create flashcards with questions on them that can be shuffled. There are also many websites and apps that can support with practising multiplication tables and number bond recall.

Topic/Research tasks/Talk homework

Depending on the topic that children are working on in class, there will be opportunities (age and stage appropriate) for children to prepare presentations. There may be an occasional piece of research homework to support topic work. Again, please be reminded of the overarching point that together with your child, you can decide when enough time has been spent on any given task. We will also set **Talk Homework**. Talking and listening are valuable skills and we may provide subjects to discuss and debate with your children as appropriate.

Different Learning Needs

We understand at Barnhill that our children have a variety of needs and indeed some children have barriers to their learning which could impact their ability to complete homework tasks. Children will receive homework tailored to their learning needs, where this is appropriate. For example, we strive to be dyslexia friendly and we do not want any child to struggle with homework. Please let us know if we can provide any further assistance or ideas for your child's work at home.

Seesaw

Communication from the class teachers in relation to homework will come via Seesaw. Homework can be completed in whatever way is easiest and we encourage using a variety of ways of recording pieces of work. If you would prefer not to upload homework to Seesaw then a blank jotter for completing activities in can be provided.

Feedback

We encourage parents to help their children to have a good go at their homework and to bring it back to school/upload it by the agreed date. Teachers will acknowledge the punctual receipt of the work and will discuss the tasks and give verbal feedback to children in class time but will not mark the homework. Parents and carers are therefore encouraged to contact their child's teacher, as soon as is convenient, if there is any difficulty with homework. We are very keen that homework is a positive experience for every child and family, and genuinely contributes to the child's learning.

The Barnhill Team

Believe

Respect

Include

Learn and Achieve

Look after each other