

Higher Bebington Junior School

Homework Policy



Introduction

Homework is an important part of a children's education and can add much to their development. One of the aims of our school is for the children to develop as independent learners. We believe that homework is one of the main ways in which they can acquire the skill of independent learning.

At Higher Bebington Junior School, for our pupils to obtain the highest standards (spiritual, moral, social, cultural and academic), we recognise the importance of an active partnership between home and school. Homework is just one way in which we seek to foster this partnership, which encompasses a wide variety of activities to support children's learning. This work will be marked where appropriate by class teachers, support staff, pupils and peers.

As a school, we believe that homework is an essential part of being a successful learner in life. We value its place as it helps the children to practise and perfect their skills, as well as deepen their knowledge, understanding and skills through regular short bursts of repetitive tasks. It also gives you as parents an idea of what your child is learning about in school.

Aims

Through this policy we aim to:

- Ensure that parents are clear about what their child is expected to do
- Ensure consistency of approach throughout the school and each year group
- Provide opportunities for parents, children and the school to work together in partnership in relation to children's learning
- Reinforce work covered in class by providing further opportunities for individual learning
- To practise or consolidate basic skills and knowledge, especially in Mathematics and English
 - Encourage children to develop the responsibility, confidence and self-discipline needed to study independently
 - Develop good work habits and discipline for the future
 - To prepare Year 6 pupils for the transfer to secondary school

What is Homework?

Homework should not be a chore, but children should see it as an extension of their schoolwork. There may be occasions when some tasks are more challenging or difficult than usual as homework plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment. We also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development. We see homework as encompassing a wide range of possibilities. The following list gives just a few examples:

- reading with a parent
- a family visit to a local museum
- undertaking individual research for a project at the local library
- learning number facts (tables)

- English activities both written and verbal
- being an active member of a sports club or youth organisation

It can be seen from this list that homework can be a two way process. Teachers may ask for tasks to be done at home, but are delighted to learn about children's success in other aspects of their lives and will seek to recognise this in school. Children are encouraged to post these achievements onto Seesaw, our Home Learning platform.

Our Homework

At the beginning of every half term teachers will prepare a range of activities that will be set on either Seesaw or given out to children to be completed in homework books. (Our homework books are the same as our topic books, to encourage children to use the same presentation skills they would use in these books.)

Homework is given out every Thursday and expected to be returned every Monday. This gives teachers a chance to mark the work set. Any work that is handed in after this time will not be marked unless there is a good reason for its delay.

Maths

- Children will be set maths homework weekly on our Home Learning platform, Seesaw. Any child who is not able to access this will be given a paper copy. Maths homework will always consolidation work that has or is being carried out in class or may be times tables related. There will be an example for the children to follow at the top of the sheet.
- Times tables are such an important part of our daily maths learning, it is essential these skills are practiced at home. By the end of Year 4, children should know all their tables up to 12 x 12. All children have access to Time Tables Rockstars (TTR) and are encouraged to challenge themselves on this at home.

English/Topic/Science

- All children will be given a topic book with a sheet containing their other piece of weekly homework. This will be uploaded onto Seesaw for the half term, so parents/carers are aware of the tasks that are coming up. These tasks may be writing, reading, science, topic or art related and there may be one project to be completed over a longer period. This homework may be quite creative and allow the children to come up with their own ideas for presentation.

Reading

- All children are expected to read as often as possible. Children are all given a Reading Log at the start of the year to record any reading they have been doing. They are also able to comment on what they have read and complete one VIPERS (Vocabulary, Inference, prediction, explanation, retrieval, summarise.) Children may be given a specific book to read from school or they may be able to read a book of their own choosing. Our library is fully stocked with lots of books; please ensure they are returned to school so others can read them too!

Spellings

- Spellings will be uploaded onto Seesaw every Thursday and tested the following Friday. Please use the strategies suggested and ensure time is given to learning these each week. Spellings will reflect work carried out in class during that week.

As always, all homework should be carried out to a high standard and should reflect the standard of work that is produced within the classroom.

The Role of the Class teacher

- To always ensure homework is clearly related to current areas of study within the classroom
- To ensure all children can access the homework either through Seesaw or paper copies
- To provide an explanation of homework tasks to children, and where necessary, parents/carers and give guidance on they can assist their child
 - To mark homework and give feedback to pupils
 - To recognise and celebrate regular completion of homework tasks of a high standard

The Role of Parents/Carers

- To support school and their child's learning by ensuring that their child attempts all homework
- To provide a suitable place for their child to complete homework
- To make it clear to their child that they value homework and they support the school by explaining to their child how it can help learning
- To allow their child to work independently on activities
- To communicate with the class teacher weekly through the Reading & Homework Diary any problems or praise regarding the weekly homework
- If parents/carers have any problems or question about homework, they should contact their child's class teacher or encourage their child to do so.

It is vital that parents display a positive attitude to homework and value its importance. It is also important for parents to recognise that it is the children's responsibility to complete the work. If parents have any problems or questions about homework, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher.

Addendum Covid-19 Sept 2020

Due to Covid-19 restrictions Higher Bebington Junior School have moved to a Home Learning platform, Seesaw. This is to limit the paperwork that is moving between school and home. Children will complete the majority of their homework on this platform. If this is not the case, the class teacher will make other suitable arrangements.

During this time homework deadlines have changed from Tuesday to Monday to allow Reading Logs and Homework books to be isolated for 72 hours before they return home. We also understand that children have been away from school for some time and homework may become a problem for them after reintegrating back into school life. During

the first few months allowances will be made for this to ensure children have a healthy, happy and safe return into school life.

Monitoring and review

It is the responsibility of the Governing Body to agree and then monitor the Homework Policy. The policy will be reviewed every three years.