

Homework

Purpose of homework

The Government believes that there is enormous advantage in children spending regular periods of time, on different learning activities devised by schools as part of a homework programme which supports the work they do in school. Inspections by the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted) look at whether homework is used effectively to reinforce and/or extend what is learned in school.

- Homework should be part of an effective partnership between the school and parents in pursuing the aims of the school.
- Homework should consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding, especially in literacy and numeracy.
- Homework should exploit resources for learning, of all kinds, at home.
- Homework should extend school learning, for example through additional reading.
- Homework should encourage pupils as they get older to develop the confidence and self discipline needed to study on their own, and preparing them for the requirements of secondary school.

The Governors and staff of Birch Primary School recognise the need for children to have the time to follow out of school interests and family activities and the attached guidelines and time allocations allow for these important things to take place. This has been particularly important when deciding on the days when homework will be set and collected.

Special educational needs

Although it is seen as important that children identified as having special educational needs do as much in common with other children as possible there will be occasions when they may benefit from special tasks separate from the homework set for other children in the class. Such homework may be set/marked by the class teacher or special needs co-ordinator (SENCO).

Role of parents and carers in supporting pupils

Parents and carers should be encouraged to:

- provide a reasonably peaceful, suitable place in which a child can do homework.
- make it clear to their children that they value homework and support the school in explaining how it can help their learning.
- encourage children and praise them when they have completed homework.

Homework Guidelines

EYFS

Children in the EYFS are expected to focus on developing their reading skills through use of 'Red Words' and 'Sound Cards'.

Years 1 and 2

Children in Years 1 and 2 will have some reading, spelling and maths activities to complete at home. All children are expected to read four times each week at home.

Years 3 and 4

Children in years 3 and 4 are expected to read with an adult at least four times during each week. Guidance for parents on how to make best use of this time will be provided. A home/school reading diary will be provided and will serve as a record of children's reading. The diary will be monitored by the class teacher.

In addition, children will be given learning tasks relating to spelling rules (these will not always take the form of lists of words) and multiplication tables.

Testing of these two elements may not always take the form of a recall of knowledge test i.e. children's knowledge may be assessed using application of knowledge in written or mathematical work.

Each week children will be given a piece of work in either mathematics, English or work in one of the foundation subjects. Across the school, homework will generally be given to the children on Monday of each week and must be handed in by the following Friday.

Homework folders will be provided for the children to use and in line with the school's presentation guidelines children are expected to use pencil for mathematics and either pencil or a Berol handwriting pen for English.

Year 6

In year 6 are encouraged to take responsibility for ensuring that they have sufficient information to enable them to undertake their homework and to check with their teacher if they need further guidance. They will be expected to adhere to the school's presentation guidelines for this work.

Reading continues to be vital and children will be expected to keep a record of their reading.

In addition, children will receive two pieces of written homework each week - mathematics and English, or occasionally a different subject.

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It will be stressed to all children that they should ask for help if they cannot understand a task when they start working on it at home although staff will try to ensure that homework contains examples if possible to help parents understand the task.

If a child is absent then a copy of the homework will be put into their tray ready for when they return. A spare copy will be put in a homework folder in the classroom. It is the child's responsibility to make sure that they get their homework on their return and find another copy if they mislay their copy.