

Homework Policy

At Barker's Lane School all pupils are encouraged to participate in some form of homework. Parents are informed at induction meetings and at meetings held throughout the year of our expectations with regard to parental support in our endeavours to guide pupils in homework activities. Staff encourage and praise pupils in their attempts with a view to homework eventually becoming a natural extension of their school lives.

Aims

In providing homework we aim to:

Pupils

- consolidate new skills and concepts across the curriculum;
- promote self discipline and confidence for independent study;
- promote the skills of perseverance and determination to succeed;
- create interest and curiosity beyond the school day e.g. research.

Parents

- develop an effective partnership and improve understanding between home and school;
- provide meaningful opportunities to work alongside your child;
- provide opportunities to enhance and improve your child's education.

Teachers

- consolidate and extend learning skills;
- create a stronger purposeful partnership between home and school;
- create opportunities with parents to share learning steps in positive progressive stages;
- homework where and when appropriate is marked and purposefully annotated.

Implementation

Homework involves a range of tasks which change as the children progress throughout the school.

Regular shared reading is encouraged at all ages, and as children progress number facts e.g. number bonds and times tables become a regular part of homework.

Additional homework activities usually take the form of small projects which involve the children using their learning skills across the curriculum. Also the contribution of independent research the children undertake is valued.

In preparation for the transition to secondary school, homework demands may increase in Year 6 and involve children finding out information, reading in preparation for lessons, preparing oral presentations as well as more traditional written tasks.

Each teacher is responsible for setting homework tasks appropriate to the children's stage of learning, with clear intentions and manageable for both pupils and parents.

All pupils receive a home-school reading diary which pupils, parents and teachers make comments in to maintain a dialogue between home and school.

Each teacher is responsible for ensuring parents are informed of the expectations regarding the timescale for setting homework, and for receiving items back from the children for marking and assessment.

We always aim to find a balance to support as many children as possible, whilst ensuring there is appropriate time for other activities children may participate in with families. Homework usually consists of:

- Reception - Reading and either a literacy or numeracy based task.
- Year 1 & 2 - Reading and shared learning tasks compiled with the children
Maths IT / paper based activity (weekly)
- Juniors - Shared learning tasks compiled with children
Spellings for spelling buddy work during the week
Reading (to be returned each day with reading diary)
Maths IT / paper based activity (weekly)

Any planned IT based Maths homework is allocated online by 3.30pm on Fridays.

Parents and pupils are encouraged to talk to the class teacher if any support with homework is required.

We also hold a junior homework club to support with initial ideas / preparation for shared learning tasks.

Workshops for parents are offered periodically to support with various teaching and learning strategies e.g. calculations, reading

Additional Learning Needs

Homework is provided for all children, whatever their ability and appropriate to their stage of learning. Learning opportunities are matched to the needs of all children to include challenge and support for our most and least able children. When necessary these take account of any relevant targets set for individual children in their Individual Education Plans (IEPs).

Barker's Lane School recognises and supports the needs of all children. Pupils will be offered appropriate challenging opportunities to generate their own learning, to think and work independently and to foster a love and commitment to lifelong learning.

Equality

Equality is always observed with positive attitudes being developed. We will not unlawfully discriminate on grounds of age, disability, gender, gender reassignment, race or ethnicity, religion or belief, sexual orientation, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity or on the grounds of Welsh language.

All pupils, their parents and guardians, volunteers, staff and school governors are valued and will be treated with dignity and respect. The school will not tolerate any form of discrimination, harassment or victimisation.

We will work across our school community to ensure our commitment to equality and fairness is shared and take steps to ensure that our school is accessible, welcoming and inclusive.

Monitoring & Review

This policy was prepared by Mrs C Edwards in consultation with all staff and governors in March 2015 and updated in March 2019. It will be monitored by staff in line with parent consultations / questionnaire. It will be revised and amended as and when necessary.