



Home Learning Policy

At Bewdley Primary School, we aim to provide a secure and happy environment where everyone can enjoy learning and be inspired to:

- Achieve their best in everything by being responsible and working hard
- Appreciate their own and others' value and importance
- Be thoughtful, kind, caring and active members of the school and beyond
- Be proud of their achievements
- Develop imagination through creativity and resourcefulness
- Be emotionally resilient and determined and able to overcome any obstacle

At Bewdley Primary School, we recognise the value and impact of learning that takes place outside the school day and want to fully support our parents and carers in providing opportunities for pupils to practise, build upon and enhance the skills, knowledge and understanding that are part of their school curriculum.

Time at home spent with family members doing a range of activities supports both educational, emotional, physical and social wellbeing. Taking a walk in the park, visiting shops, handling money, watching films and news reports (for older pupils), playing games, cooking, making things, just talking things through etc. provide really valuable learning opportunities. In school, we try to provide 'real-life' learning experiences so pupils understand why they are learning something. All the learning at home is real life! Writing invitations, shopping lists, thank you letters have a genuine purpose. It is our belief that children who are happy, confident, have a strong sense of identity and belonging and a love of learning are much more likely to be successful at school and beyond.

We all want our children to achieve the best they possibly can but this isn't necessarily about doing more school work at home, it is about doing other learning at home to enhance what is being done in school.

We believe that the activities suggested better support the learning, progress and wellbeing of our pupils than simply repeating worksheet based tasks. However, only parents/carers can decide on how much is appropriate as we do not know what individual pupils' family life and commitments are. We will not punish children who do not do homework, but we do encourage parents/carers to try to fulfil the suggestions laid out in the table at the end of this policy as we feel that this will provide children opportunities to extend their learning.

Literacy

It is **absolutely vital** that all children are encouraged to read and be read to **every** day even if it is only for 10 minutes. Reading enables children to access and understand all aspects of the curriculum. Additionally, children who read and are read to, often have a greater range of vocabulary, understand how grammar and punctuation is used, are able to recognise when their spelling is incorrect, have a good imagination, are able to apply techniques to their own writing and have a good general knowledge. All of this supports greater achievement in phonics, reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation assessments. You do not always have to use the child's school reading book – use other texts as well to encourage a wider range of reading. It is useful for us to know what has been done at home and any specific difficulties your child has had so this information can support opportunities provided in the classroom – please make a note of any work done in the child's red home/school book.

On the school website are lists of the words that children in each phase should be able to spell. This can help parents/carers to identify these words when reading with their child and perhaps to discuss the trickier ones and think about ways to remember these. Please remember that we are teaching all of this in school – we do not expect you to do all the work – however, any further opportunities to practise or reinforce will clearly benefit your child. There is also a list of ways to reinforce spellings as children learn in different ways. Try a variety of ways until your child finds the way that supports their learning best.

Maths

The school website is updated on a half termly basis with activities that can be done which will support your child with their maths learning based on the objectives that are being covered that half term (these are also sent home with your child). We also provide some useful web links to other activities.

It is very important that children learn their number bonds to 10, 20 and 100 etc. (e.g. $1 + 9 = 10$, $10 + 90 = 100$ etc.) and multiplication facts. This needs a constant drip feed and recall which cannot always be done during lessons. Any additional practice of this would be really supportive for your child's mathematical development.

Don't forget that practical maths is a fabulous way to develop skills and for children to appreciate maths in the real world. For example, measuring weights for cooking, measuring during DIY projects, distances on journeys, money calculations when shopping or simply identifying numbers when round and about. Look for opportunities and share them with your child.

Topic

Pupils in Reception and Key Stage 1, are encouraged to carry on with their learning outside the classroom following interests that have been inspired in class. Each class has a Homework Heroes Board where children's work is celebrated.

In Key Stage 2, pupils are given the opportunity to undertake a project at least once a term. This project enables pupils to lead their own learning within a theme and allows for self-organisation, the development of creativity and inspiring a love of learning. The work brought in is exhibited to other pupils, and sometimes parents and carers, where children can explain and present what they have done. They will be given verbal feedback on their work both from the teacher and their peers.

Additional Learning

Where we feel that a child will benefit from specific practice in a particular area, they will be given individual activities to support this. This way we can bespoke the learning to the child's needs at any particular time rather than giving blanket homework which may or may not be supportive to the individual child.

We are always delighted to see any other learning a child has undertaken outside of school and, where possible, would encourage them to bring this into school so that it can be celebrated in school as well.

As a guide, we would recommend the following for specific school related home activities:

PHASE	SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES AND APPROX TIME
Reception Year 1 and Year 2	<p style="text-align: center;">Reading</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(10 mins x 7 days = 70 minutes per week)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">One or two maths activities from website suggestions (paper copies also sent each half term)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Topic work – children’s own choice when inspired by classroom activities</p>
Year 3 and Year 4	<p style="text-align: center;">Reading</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(At least 10 mins x 7 days = 70 minutes)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">A few maths activities from activities on the website (paper copies also sent each half term)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Multiplication facts practice</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Spelling Practice from word list on website (paper copies also sent at beginning of the year)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Topic Work (each half term)</p>
Year 5 and Year 6	<p style="text-align: center;">Reading</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(About 15/20 mins per day)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Completion of reading journal once a week</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Maths activities from website (paper copies also sent home each half term)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Multiplication facts practice</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Spelling Practice from word list (paper copies also sent at beginning of the year)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Topic Work each term</p>