

Bleakhouse Junior School

Home Learning Policy

Introduction

We recommend that pupils spend between 1.5 – 2 hours engaged in Home Learning each week. The amount of time spent will vary, dependent on the age of the child. Home Learning includes; Reading, learning Spellings and Multiplication (times) tables, maths, English and Theme activities. Children who can develop the perseverance to complete Home Learning tasks each day are learning valuable skills which will be advantageous to them during secondary education and through later life.

At Bleakhouse Junior School we believe that Home Learning can:

- effectively extend the time that children spend on learning
- provide children with opportunities to reach higher levels of attainment and to make greater progress
- enhance and extend children's learning
- support the attitude that learning is not confined to the classroom
- improve the links between home and school by bridging gaps between the two, by highlighting the importance of learning at home.

Research indicates that when children, teachers and parents take Home Learning seriously, children's work improves and standards are raised. (OFSTED 1995 "Home Work in Primary and Secondary Schools")

Therefore children who do Home Learning have a real ADVANTAGE in their learning.

Entitlement

At Bleakhouse Junior School we expect that pupils will complete all Home Learning tasks.

Parents:

As parents you will be asked to sign the Home-School Agreement and support your child in some or all of the following ways:

1. Check regularly that Home Learning tasks are being set by school and are completed by children.
2. Work alongside children to help with spellings, handwriting, punctuation, times tables and Number Bonds but also, on new ideas.
3. Allow time for work to be completed and assist children in managing time for home learning.
4. Hear your child read and/or read to your child as often as you can, but at least 3 times each week.
5. Ask questions about books that have been read, topics covered at school, visits made, club activities.
6. Give your children opportunities to practise their maths skills.

7. Encourage children to persevere with challenging tasks.
8. Inform the school when problems arise.
9. Make sure that work is completed to the best of the child's ability.

Implementation

Pupils will:

Read as often as possible (at least three times each week) and write the book title and pages read in their Home Learning Log.
Complete each Home Learning task in the time allowed and hand it in to the teacher on time.
Produce the best work they possibly can.
Know that help will be given in school if it is needed.

Teachers will:

Set Home Learning regularly. Teachers appreciate the time taken to complete Home Learning tasks and will mark and/or comment on each piece of work.

They will make it clear to pupils and parents when Home Learning is set and when it is due in, giving sufficient time for the work to be completed.

Make arrangements for any missed Home Learning to be done.

Explain any Home Learning to children who have tried but found it difficult, so that work can be completed and handed in on time. Children can ask advice from ANY teacher or teaching assistant.

Give sufficient time for all tasks to be completed. Weekly homework should include a weekend so that those who have busy weeks and evening activities, can find time to complete the work set.

Provide time in school at lunchtime when pupils can go to Home Learning Club if they need extra time or have difficulty completing tasks at home.

School will:

Inform parents if a child falls behind with Home Learning, since this will be a serious DISADVANTAGE to the child.

Identify core Home Learning tasks that will be a common entitlement for all pupils. Individual teachers will be expected to set a variety of tasks linked to current areas of study. Core tasks will be outlined on the school web-site

Each child, throughout their time at Bleakhouse Junior School, will be expected to complete these tasks.

Core Home Learning Tasks

1. Learning a set of spellings for a test.
2. Learn specific mathematical facts.

3. Read from a selection of books.
4. Children could be given other tasks to complete.

Developing working relationships with parents

At Bleakhouse Junior School we believe that Home Learning is an opportunity to extend school activities at home, to involve parents in their children's learning and to develop work habits which will prepare children for secondary school.

English

Speaking and Listening is an important part of English and as a skill comes before Reading and Writing. Please encourage your child to discuss with you what he/she has done at school during the day.

Reading is very important and all children benefit from sharing books with other members of the family or a friend.

- Younger, or less fluent readers, would benefit from reading and being heard read for a minimum of ten minutes daily.
- Please encourage children to use the school and public library to supplement and extend reading.
- We are always pleased to see books which the children bring from home.
- Parents should use the Home Learning Log to communicate with school.

Writing: Children will be given a set of spellings early in the week to be learned for a test. We recommend that when you help your child to learn their spellings you use the following method:

- look at the word carefully
- read the word aloud
- cover the word up
- write the word from memory
- check to see if the word has been spelt correctly
- Check that your child understands the meaning of the word
- You may ask your child to write the word in a sentence to demonstrate that they understand what it means

Repeat this process until the word has been spelt correctly. Please try to encourage children to learn a few words each evening, rather than leaving it all until the last evening!

Writing at home

- Teachers are always pleased to see work done at home
- Children could write a holiday diary, a report of a special event, a book review or an imaginative story or poem.
- Please ensure that children are forming their letters correctly, advice will be given by class teachers if necessary.

Maths

In general, maths Home Learning, without adult support, can only be further practice of what each child already knows. Times Tables and number bonds take a great deal of practice! Much of the Home Learning in maths is completed on the computer using such programmes as MangaHigh and MyMaths.

You can further help your child by:

- Involving children in practical activities such as cooking, shopping and playing board games, all of which develop an understanding of number and other mathematical ideas.
- Practising multiplication (times) tables at home.
- Teaching your child to tell the time.
- Encouraging your child to use measuring tools accurately
- Teaching your child about managing money (shopping, pocket money, saving).

These skills can often be learned more quickly at home on a one to one basis with parents and we actively encourage all parents to support their children in this way.

Children in Year 6

As children progress through Year 6 they will receive an increasing amount of Home Learning, in order to prepare them for High School and also, to assist them as they revise for Standard Assessment Tests (SATs) in May.

Other subject areas

School projects in other subject areas (e.g. Science, History and Geography) can be followed up at home, thus deepening the child's understanding. There are many ways in which this can be encouraged:

- visiting places of interest;
- using libraries and museums;
- making models and games;
- drawing maps and plans;
- making records and taking photographs.

You will be notified during September of the topics your child will be studying during the coming year.

A Final Note

REMEMBER, Home Learning is meant to be an enjoyable and worthwhile activity for all and should not be allowed to cause distress to pupils, parents or teachers! Please discuss any problems with the class teacher concerned as soon as they arise.

Review: This policy will be reviewed, added to or modified by the Governing Body every three years or more frequently as required.

Distribution: A copy of this document will be available via the school website to all school governors, teaching staff, non-teaching staff if requested and all parents if requested.

JEB February 2016