



Whinney Banks Primary School
Home Learning Policy - April 2021
Date of Review: At need

Homework aims to enhance learning by:

- Consolidating and reinforcing key skills and supporting understanding developed at school;
- Extending school learning through activities such as additional reading and research;
- Exploring the range of resources for learning at home e.g. library, internet and adult knowledge;
- Offering children the opportunity to extend their learning by including optional additional challenges;
- Encouraging good habits of organisation and responsibility for independent learning;
- Involving parents with the work children are doing in class.

Home learning at our school

Home learning 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 home learning 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 believe home learning should be enjoyable and manageable.

What the school will offer:

During each term of the school year every parent receives an invitation to communicate with their child's class teacher to discuss progress and areas of study for their year group. These discussions will include information about the types of home learning which might be set by school as well as indicating activities parents might wish to develop with their children. In Y6 there is often the opportunity for the children to attend home learning club in the spring and summer terms to support their learning in the lead up to SATs and in preparation for the transition to secondary school.

Guidance

We believe the most important home learning activity is regular reading. There is an expectation that reading at home will happen daily. It is important for parents / carers to read with children and discuss books, pictures and stories, even when they are in year six.

The nature and content of home learning set, and the amount of time needed to complete it will vary from year to year and from child to child.

Reception

Home learning in Reception is usually started a few weeks into the Autumn term to give the children time to settle in to full time school.

- School reading book from appropriate reading level – expectation that children will read/share their book at home 3 times in the week for a minimum of 10 minutes with an adult.
- Key words/letter sounds – children have a keyword book with list of keywords from the phonics phase and group they are working at. Children are expected to practise on sight

reading and writing of these keywords with an adult at home. Keywords are assessed every 2 weeks in school and new keywords given as appropriate. Children who are not ready for keywords yet are given single letter sounds to practise letter recognition linked to our phonics work.

- Shared Reading Library – we have books available that the children can take home to share with an adult. Shared reading library books are usually changed once a week. There is a range of fiction and non-fiction books for children to choose based on their own interests. The idea is that they are shared and enjoyed at home together with an adult to develop and promote the enjoyment of listening to a range of books.

KS1

- Spellings. In year 1, children will be given spellings to learn. Children should aim to read the words from sight and write them from memory. In year 2, spelling cards specific to their learning phase are sent home half termly for children to practise.
- Children are expected to read at home every night for 10 minutes and books are changed regularly.
- Additionally, English and Maths home learning may be given to support the learning in school.
- Some afternoon curriculum home learning may be set, such as research finding, where relevant.

KS2

English:

- The children are given spellings to practise at home. These may be linked to their spelling phase or alternatively, year group spellings. Occasionally, spellings may be given which support children's written work in class.
- Children are asked to read, either to themselves or to an adult or older brother or sister, each evening for at least 10 minutes.

Maths:

- Children are expected to learn / practise multiplication tables and division facts, until they can recall these confidently. In addition, children may be also be given, or choose, work linked to their previous and current learning.

Afternoon

- Children may receive a piece of research-based learning linked to the afternoon curriculum.

What the **teacher** is expected to do.

Children need to believe that home learning is important so teachers will treat it as such. This means we will:

- make sure the activities are relevant;
- give enough time to complete the work;
- be ready to help children if they get stuck;
- check the home learning has been done;
- give the children feedback in an appropriate way (this may be written feedback, discussion or remote feedback).

Parents

We ask parents to support the school by:

- encouraging your child to complete home learning, praising them when they do so;
- explaining that working at home is important and show that you value it and support the school in explaining how it can help learning;
- providing a reasonably peaceful, suitable place for your child to do their home learning;
- ensure work is complete and returned to school on time.

What **children** are expected to do:

Children are responsible for:

- remembering to take their learning home;
- making sure it is done to the best of their ability;
- making sure they bring it back to school on time;
- asking the teacher, if they are not sure what to do or how to do it.

Remote Learning (see separate Policy)

In recent years, online learning has formed an integral part of teaching and learning. Online resources are regularly accessed to enhance the curriculum and to promote independent learning, with the majority of resources accessible in school and at home, as appropriate. Our approach is that online learning does not replace face-to-face teaching but that blended learning, where needed, is of a high quality and aligns as closely as possible with in-school provision of the curriculum

We have plans for the provision of online education where needed and to ensure that the small number of children that need to be educated at home, for example, due to shielding or self-isolation, are given the support they need to continue learning.

Following school closures in March 2020, online learning became the main avenue to continue teaching and learning with the view that this would continue alongside a blended model of at home/in school education for coming months.

As a school we hope you will find this guidance helpful in supporting your child fully with their homework.