



Bramhope Home Learning Policy

First written: September 2018

Reviewed in: September 2021

Reviewed by: All staff

Ratified by Full Governors in: September 2021

Our philosophy:

Home learning is a controversial topic, so to inform what we do we have planned our policy around what research says about the most effective ways of doing things. Current research suggests the following principles:

- Setting daily written homework can have a negative effect in terms of putting children off learning
- Activities that involve the parents and child working together on something or talking about work in school can be effective
- The most effective thing any parent can do to help their child succeed at school is to read with them.

Our aims:

- Recognise and celebrate all the learning that already happens at home
- Be explicit with children and parents about which homework is compulsory and which is optional
- Communicate with parents if their child is not completing their homework
- Be explicit with parents about the ways in which they can help their child at home
- Promote parents and children reading and talking together on a daily basis
- Promote parents helping their children practise spellings and maths facts including times tables
- Help parents plan their time by offering flexibility with weekly home learning
- Allow time for children to pursue interests outside of school and enable them to have unstructured time to themselves, including time to rest and relax
- Encourage perseverance, self-discipline and pupils taking responsibility for their own learning
- Enable children to develop their learning independently, without the teacher's presence
- Provide occasional opportunities for pupils to extend learning beyond what is compulsory

Our expectations:

Daily Home Learning:	
Reading (all children)	We recommend approximately 20 minutes a day. This should include reading a range of material, discussing vocabulary, asking and answering questions and sharing books
Testing on key facts (all children)	We recommend 5-10 minutes a day. This includes spellings/phonics and key maths facts as well as times tables
Weekly Home Learning	
Mathletics (Y1-6)	This will set by each class teacher but children may choose to do more
Rock stars/times tables (Y3-6 only)	This will set by each class teacher but children may choose to do more
Practising and Applying (Y3 – Y6 only)	Up to one hour (total) a week of ‘key skills’ This is usually maths and English based e.g. reading comprehension, written maths problems and/or a writing task. Homework is uploaded onto Teams
Optional Home Learning	
Age appropriate and on the website	This will include key learning for each unit and will be updated at least termly by class teachers

Our rationale

We would like all children to complete their daily home learning activities. This establishes routines and helps to develop a strong work ethic, self-motivation and greater independence. However, we do recognise that there are occasions where it may not be possible for children to complete their homework. In order to encourage home-school communication, parents should always be informed if their child has not completed an agreed, home learning task and does not bring it into school or upload it onto Teams at a later date. The class teacher and parent should negotiate a sanction if appropriate.

Reading

The more children practise reading, the easier and more enjoyable it will become. Children who do not practise reading at home are very likely to fall behind and may well struggle throughout their school careers. The more parents read to their children, the larger their vocabulary will grow and the more they will develop their own love of reading. We encourage all children to read a range of texts including fiction, non-fiction and poetry. Children should read a range of authors. They should read ‘real’ books as well as school reading books and may also choose to read magazines, newspapers or ‘Bug club’ online. All children have a library lesson in school each week; we have links to age appropriate suggested reading lists on our website and ‘gold star’ (recommended) books are available in each library.

Learning

When trying to learn spellings, tables facts or maths facts by rote, it is much more effective to practise ‘little and often’ rather once a week. The more children practise these, the easier they will be to remember. The quicker they can remember them automatically, the more their brain has space to work on other, higher level things. It is also important to stress that if we do not practise maths facts and spellings regularly, we will begin to forget them. That is why even older pupils will occasionally be given easy number facts and spellings – just to check they can still recall these instantly. When testing children on their spellings, please ensure that they can understand and explain the meaning of the word. Children will need to understand the meaning of the word in order to take their weekly test; They will be asked to give an example of a word in the same family or asked to use the word in context, for example as part of dictation.

Children may also occasionally be asked to learn other facts that will develop their general knowledge or inform their learning at school.

Talking

Our mission statement states that *'Bramhope is a place where children are knowledgeable and curious about the world.'* We encourage children to ask and answer questions, listen to others, explore ideas and extend their learning through discussion. We share our 'Big think' questions with parents in the weekly newsletter so that they can discuss the key question at home. As part of their home learning, children will therefore sometimes ask parents about their opinions and experiences as a means of developing their own views and understanding of the world. Children will not usually be asked to write anything following their talking homework.

Mathletics and Tables rock stars

Children are expected to know all their tables facts to 12 x 12 by the end of year 4. This is when they will take a national test which tests immediate recall of tables facts in a random order. We encourage children to learn the 2x, 5x and 10x times as a minimum by the end of Y2. In years 1-6, children have a login to practise tables facts and apply skills they have learnt in a range of contexts. Children may be working individually or may be asked to work on a particular topic. Class teachers will monitor the work remotely.

Practising and Applying

These maths, reading and writing activities are designed to allow your child to practise and become fluent in the knowledge they have been acquiring in School as well as apply their knowledge in a range of contexts.

Optional home learning

At the start of each term, the home learning section of the website will be updated with a list of suggested activities to do with their parents at home. These are optional learning challenges which support the curriculum units. Nobody is expected to do them although children who are well enough to work may access them during remote learning. In addition, there will be a list of any key facts (by subject) that children should learn and any key vocabulary (by subject) which they should understand and remember.

Reception

In Reception, alongside reading, phonics and handwriting, your child will receive a weekly blog. This gives you guidance and information about the week's learning. It suggests practical ways in which you can enrich the learning experience at home through talking, exploring, making and asking and answering questions.

Additional work

Children of any age may occasionally be asked to do additional work including spelling and handwriting. Children will not be asked to regularly complete additional work unless it is part of an individual learning plan which has been agreed with parents.

Evaluation of the Policy

This policy will be reviewed and evaluated by the senior management team on a biyearly cycle. Any problems or areas that are that are not appearing to be successfully upheld by staff will then be brought to the attention of staff and the policy will be reviewed and further training will be given depending on the needs perceived.