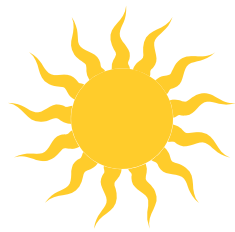


Boreham Primary School
A Friendship School



'Daring to aim high, scale new heights, spread our wings and fly far'

How to help your child complete their homework

A guide for parents



January 2018

What are the benefits of my child completing homework?

At Boreham Primary School, homework, in some form, is set to children in every year group so that they can practise their skills and share their learning with you at home. Homework is an opportunity for you to be involved in supporting your child's progress and it is apparent that children who regularly complete their homework do tend to make better progress with their learning - particularly reading. As a school we value being in partnership with you and your child to help them to achieve their very best. Completing homework tasks are ideal opportunities for children to practise what they have been learning in school and tasks will often be set around this. It is also a chance for children to develop their learning further and use and apply the key skills that they have been taught in lessons. The completion of homework tasks is also an opportunity for children to further develop their independence and organisational skills.

We are a busy family; how do we manage the amount of homework my child is set?

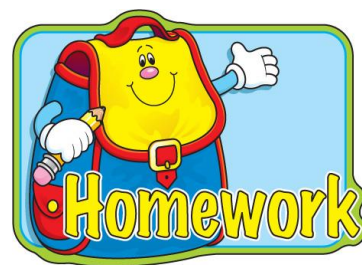
We recognise that many parents work longer hours than ever before and that family time is precious. In addition to this we also value how important it is for our pupils to attend out of school clubs. As a staff we have therefore reviewed the homework that is being set in each year group. This should help parents and carers more easily plan homework into their schedules. As a school we have moved to a new style of homework for Years 1 to 6 which will give children greater choice, flexibility and time to complete more meaningful tasks linked to their class's current topic. This will involve a half-termly take away homework menu.

How do we organise and set homework? When must it be handed in?

Children are expected to **complete a minimum of 4 tasks** from the homework menu for every half term. Some tasks are open-ended, may be presented in any way your child chooses, and can be extended as much as you or your child wish. If the task is completed on a computer, the work should be printed off and stuck in their homework book. Photographs may also be included if felt appropriate. A variety of activities should be chosen but must include one English task, one Maths, one foundation subject task and a fourth challenge of choice from the menu. Each activity can only be chosen once.

The half-termly takeaway tasks will be stuck into homework books by the children at the beginning of each half term and will also be available on the class pages of the school website.

Homework books should be handed in on Wednesdays when a task has been completed and will be returned by Friday at the latest. Children are still expected to read at home three or more times per week, for at least 20 minutes, and to practise their weekly spelling homework.





Top tips for supporting your child with homework

1. Children often find it helpful to study in the same place every night where supplies and materials are close at hand. This space does not have to be a bedroom, but it should be a quiet, well-lit place, preferably at a table or desk with few distractions. All maths homework should always be completed in pencil and if your child has received their school pen licence they are encouraged to complete any written work in a handwriting pen.
2. Try to set aside certain times for completing homework. The best time is usually not right after school as most children benefit from time to unwind first. Parents should include their child in making this decision. The most important thing is to establish a routine that works for your child.
3. Make sure your child has a drink of water available and has had the opportunity to go to the toilet and have a snack, if appropriate, before starting. No-one works at their best if they are hungry, thirsty or feeling uncomfortable!
4. Wherever possible relate homework to your child's everyday life. For instance, fractions and measurements can be revised if you are baking cakes with your child.
5. Be a role model. Make sure you demonstrate reading books, magazines, newspapers for enjoyment and purpose.
6. Take time to review your child's homework with them, but make sure you are not doing it for them. Support them with misconceptions and help them make corrections. Being familiar with your child's work will help you identify areas where they are already confident or where they may need a little more support.
7. Always praise your child for successfully completing homework.

How is my child's homework marked?

The majority of all homework set will be acknowledged by the class teacher with a short positive comment but will not be marked in as much detail as the children's books in school. It will be marked with either ticks, symbols or house points. If it is felt necessary, positive comments or tips for improvement may be added. Teachers will record when homework is completed to ensure that the expected number of tasks are being completed over the half term. Homework can also be peer marked or marked by the child themselves as the class teacher goes through it. Parents are also encouraged to write short comments on pupils' homework, where appropriate, to inform the class teacher of how easy/difficult the child found the task and how much support they were given in order to complete the task set.

A variety of rewards are given to encourage children to do their homework and to take pride in their work by presenting it neatly and carefully. Regular completion of homework to a high standard is frequently acknowledged and celebrated in our whole school Star Assembly on a Friday.



If a child is unable to do their homework for any reason or if they have spent a lot of time on one area and not completed other areas then please see your child's class teacher. Our aim is to offer pupils a range of learning opportunities to broaden or consolidate learning and to prepare them as well as we possibly can for the next stage of their lifelong learning.



Why is reading with my child important?

Reading with your child on a regular basis is incredibly important. Children who read many different types of text develop good general knowledge, strong imagination and a sense of creativity. This will enable them to become more successful in their writing and in other areas of their learning. Children develop a broader vocabulary if they listen to, and talk about, more complex stories (and information books) which they can understand but not necessarily read for themselves, so reading to your child is as important as listening to them read.

We believe, therefore, that reading with your child, or hearing your child read to you, should be part of a daily routine. Bedtimes are ideal times to share a story or listen to your child read their favourite book. Make sure that you hear your child read in a distraction-free environment for you both. Talking about the story, the characters and getting your child to think about what might happen next in the story are important ways to help them develop their understanding of story structures and develop their thinking and reasoning skills. Boys often prefer non-fiction (information texts) which link to their interests and these can be shared and enjoyed together as easily as stories. **WHEN YOU HEAR YOUR CHILD READ PLEASE WRITE IN YOUR CHILD'S READING RECORD BOOK.**

Will homework be set during school holidays?

At Boreham School we believe that holiday time is quality time for families to spend together. During this time we would hope that parents or other family members would find time to hear their child read. In addition to this class teachers may ask the class to research a particular topic that the children will be studying upon their return to school. If you go on holiday compiling a scrapbook of photos, postcards and tickets etc. is an activity the whole family can do.

We will also set whole school competitions for children to work on during holiday times which quite often are art related tasks.

We hope you find this guide useful and that it will help you build your child's homework into your daily routines. If you need any help or advice with supporting your child to complete the homework then please talk to your child's class teacher who will be only too happy to listen to your concerns and offer ideas wherever possible.

We hope homework can be an enjoyable experience for your child as this is beneficial for you and for them and we are happy to offer help and advice if it becomes a chore. We know that you want the very best learning opportunities for your child and we **highly** value all that you do with them at home

