



Birdsedge
First School

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Homework Policy

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Rationale

In line with National Curriculum requirements, at Birdsedge First School children are encouraged to establish good homework habits from the beginning of their school life.

- Homework is set regularly as a means of reinforcing and extending learning
- Homework is differentiated to meet the needs of individual pupils
- Homework should be easily understood by pupils and parents and manageable for families.

Definition

Homework is defined as work set by the teacher to be done at home, either by the child alone or with the support of an older sibling, parent or carer. The main focus of homework will be numeracy and literacy, with occasional tasks to extend and enhance learning across the curriculum.

Entitlement

All children are entitled to have homework set by their teacher, which is matched to their ability and needs. Parents are entitled to share in the learning of their child.

Aims

At Birdsedge First School we appreciate how important the links between home and school are, and the need for us to work together to ensure a good education for all children. It is for this reason that we believe that it is important that children have homework set that will support learning within the classroom. Homework will be carefully planned to extend learning, enhance and reinforce skills and understanding, and allow children to consolidate and improve their skills further. We are always mindful though that this is balanced with the work being manageable, purposeful and an enhancement not an added pressure.

Through the provision of a variety of activities and approaches to homework we aim to:

- raise standards in all curriculum areas but particularly basic skills in Maths and English
- create a sound partnership between parents and teachers with regard to children's learning
- consolidate/reinforce pupils' skills, knowledge and understanding of work covered in class
- improve pupils' attitudes to learning and independent learning skills



We aim to make homework as inclusive and achievable as possible for all and have decided on an approach that we hope will bring regular and ongoing activities and learning to do at home without the pressure of all families needing to do the same, in the same way each week.

We know that all families are different and situations are different and have developed this approach with the view that families can adapt and make suite to their own routines, situations and needs.

Children will be given homework cards each half term as follows:

Every child will be set an ongoing Homework card each half term.

Autumn Term 1 Ongoing Weekly Homework

Find a time and a way that works for you to spend 5 minutes practicing from the 3 key areas below

Mathematics
Log into Times Table Rocks Stars and practice the times tables you need to improve.
Building verbal recall of number facts at any time of day will all help too!

Reading
Read aloud to an adult or independently from your school reading book. Remember to record each read in your Reading Record Book.
Sharing and enjoying stories together is just as important too!

Spelling
Check your child's book bag every Friday for their spellings for the week ahead.
Regular practise and recap in any way that suits you will all help ☺

This will focus on fluency and core skills we know children need to access their full curriculum. This will be:

Maths – regular fluency practise through Numbots/TimesTable Rock Stars.

Reading – regular reading

Spelling – weekly spellings to learn and practise. For older children this will also include a weekly Grammar and Punctuation task sheet.

We know that motivation and reward is important to support homework. Children should tick the tracker on the back of their homework card each week every time they spend 5 minutes practising core skills in Maths, Reading and Spelling. Rewards will be given weekly for children who engage in this 3 times per week.

Homework folders should be handed in every **Thursday**. These are then checked, rewards given out and any new home work reset for the following week. Folders will be sent back home ready every **Friday**.

Autumn Term 1 Ongoing Weekly Homework

Tick the tracker every time you spend 5 minutes working on one of the areas from your homework card

Mathematics

Week 1			
Week 2			
Week 3			
Week 4			
Week 5			
Week 6			

Reading

Week 1			
Week 2			
Week 3			
Week 4			
Week 5			
Week 6			

Spelling

Week 1			
Week 2			
Week 3			
Week 4			
Week 5			
Week 6			

Autumn Term 1 House Homework Project

Research your House Country and present what you find in any way you choose!

100 House Points for your House team for a completed project

- Can you find out about the climate in the country? Do you know where to find it on a map?
- Can you research some animals that live in the country?
- Do you know what the capital of the country is? Do you know what food is eaten in the country?
- Can you find out any interesting customs or traditions in the country?

Research in any way that works for you...watch a video clip, read a book, research photographs, find a travel guide...and present what you learn in any method...a poster, leaflet, powerpoint, record a video, make a booklet

A second Homework card will be set each half term.

This is an optional, more practical and project based activity focused on finding out about wider curriculum themes and topics the children are studying.

Finished pieces will be displayed and celebrated in school.

To ensure the outlined Homework System can happen easily at home, the school will provide the following ongoing features to use at home.

- Individual Reading Books – all children will have an individual reading book that is pitched at their current reading level to read at home. This does not have to be all at once and just a few pages regularly though the week is encouraged. Children will have a reading record book, this needs to be used to record when reading of this text has taken place at home. It is important that this is filled in so staff can reward regular reading through our Bronze, Silver and Gold reading reward system. Every read also receives a raffle ticket for our weekly draw to win a book.



- Love of reading Books – all classes have their own class library and children can choose a book from here they want to take home to share or listen to purely for enjoyment.
- Spellings – weekly spellings will be set for all pupils to practice at home. There is no set way for spellings to be practiced (chalks, paints, on the floor, in a book, on an ipad...) but teachers will check weekly the progress children have made in remembering the set spellings.
- TT Rockstars – all children from Year 1 will have a log in for the TT Rockstars Programme which builds fluency in number. Various challenges and competitions will be set throughout the year to keep children motivated in this. Heat Maps will be shared half termly so that parents can see children's progress.

Children with SEND

We hope that the system has been designed in a way that makes homework and success in homework achievable and accessible for all needs. A more open ended approach means parents can adapt what the homework activities are so they are pitched at what is appropriate and achievable for all needs. However, we will always work closely with families of those children with SEND and through SEND plan review meetings adaptable or more focused tasks linked to individual targets will be suggested or set when needed and where appropriate.

