

Homework Policy



Burwell Village College Primary

Approved by:	Governing Body	Date: 4 th May 2021
Last reviewed on:	May 2021	
Next review due by:	May 2024	

We define homework as any activity that pupils undertake outside of school lesson time, either on their own or with the support of family members. At Burwell Village College Primary School we have a strong commitment to parental involvement and see homework as one way of developing this partnership.

The purpose of homework

- It informs parents about what their children are currently learning and what they need to practise.
- It takes advantage of the home environment and resources, and the chance for some one-to-one adult time.
- It is a great opportunity to rehearse and consolidate the key English and maths skills that underpin the children's in-school learning and progress.
- It helps to foster good habits of self-organisation, independence and self-discipline.
- It prepares Year 6 children for their transition to secondary school.

Homework at Burwell VC Primary School

At Burwell Primary School, we believe that homework plays an important role in complementing and enhancing the pupils' learning in school, increasing their fluency and comprehension in reading; their speed of recall of key number facts and the accuracy of their spelling and English grammar. Homework activities may be linked to the in-class learning where the teacher deems necessary.

We recognise that every family's circumstances, and their capacity to support their children's learning at home, are very different. Therefore, homework given by the teachers at Burwell Primary will be largely based around practice of skills and knowledge taught in class that pupils are able to access increasingly independently as they move through the school. Parental involvement should be of a supportive nature and should not require intensive 'teaching' of new concepts.

Whilst homework outcomes feed into teacher assessment, teachers' main sources of information regarding pupil progress and attainment is in-school learning. The main purpose of homework is to allow children the much needed practice time that we are unable to fully build in to the school timetable. Therefore, homework that is submitted on time will be checked and acknowledged by the teacher but will not be marked in detail.

There are no consequences where children fail to complete homework. If a child consistently fails to complete and return tasks, this is discussed with the child and their parents. Again, it is important to reiterate that homework-practice and consolidation- are key to the pupils' progress and confidence in school.

Homework Activities

In general, children will be expected to read daily as well as complete weekly maths, spelling and grammar activities. The focus and expectations vary depending on the child's year group. Homework will be a mixture of online and offline activities, a broad outline and examples of which are given in the tables below.

EYFS

Subject	Suggested time	Activity
Reading	10 mins/day	Read appropriately levelled book, either in hard copy or on the Bug Club online platform.
Phonics	5 mins/day	Practise learned sounds
Maths	5 mins/day	Practise counting, recognising shapes, etc.

KS1 (Years 1 and 2)

Subject	Suggested time	Activity
Reading	10 mins/day	Read an appropriately levelled book, either in hard copy or on the Bug Club online platform.
Spellings/Phonics	20 mins/week	Practise the tricky words and words linked to the sound of the week
Maths	20 mins/week	Practise number bonds within 20, counting to and past 100, etc.

LKS2 (Years 3 and 4)

Subject	Suggested time	Activity
Reading	10 mins/day	Read an appropriately levelled book, either in hard copy or on the Bug Club online platform.
Spellings	20 mins/week	Practise the spelling words given for the week.
Maths	20 mins/week	Basic skills practice, Timestable Rockstars or Maths Whizz activities
Grammar	20 mins/week	Grammar activity linked to current or previous learning

UKS2 (Years 5 and 6)

Subject	Suggested time	Activity
Reading	10 mins/day	Read an appropriately levelled book, either in hard copy or on the Bug Club online platform.
Spellings	20 mins/week	Practise the spelling words given for the week.
Maths	20 mins/week	Basic skills practice, Timestable Rockstars or Maths Whizz activities
Grammar	20 mins/week	Grammar activity linked to current or previous learning

In the few weeks prior to SAT tests, the Year 6 children may be given past SATs papers to support them with their revision.

Optional Extras

For parents who have more time to spend with their children or feel that their children need extra practice, below are some suggestions:

- Read to your child- a book with rich vocabulary that your child would be unable to read themselves.
- BBC Bitesize- a wide range of online lesson, videos, worksheets and activity ideas for every year group.
- Cookery- following instructions, using different units of measure, etc.
- Test your child on their number bonds to ten and/or their timetables.
- Google search your child's year group and the subject/topic. E.g. Year 1 addition

Our maths, reading and writing curriculum are on the school website should you wish to be more specific and targeted in the extra practice and support you give to your child.

Role of the Class Teacher

- To provide an explanation of homework tasks to children and, when necessary, parents and give guidance of how they might assist their child. This may be done by a note with the work or on Google Classroom.
- To set up regular homework in an easily followed routine.
- To ensure that homework is set consistently across classes in the Year group.
- To set homework that takes equality and diversity into account.
- To ensure any homework is purposeful and supports pupil progress.
- To reward and praise children who complete homework tasks. All homework must be acknowledged when received.

Role of the Head teacher and Governing Body

- To check compliance of the policy.
- To meet and talk with parents when appropriate.
- To discuss with staff how far the policy is being successfully implemented.

Role of Parents/Carers

- To support the school by ensuring that their child attempts the homework.
- To provide a suitable place for their child to carry out their homework.
- To encourage and praise their child when they have completed their homework.
- To make it clear that they value homework and they support the school by explaining how it can help learning.

General

- It is our policy not to give homework over the holidays and half term breaks. The exception will be where the parent and teacher agree extra work would be beneficial.
- Specific tasks may be given to specific children to support learning plans. This will be discussed with parents.
- If a child is absent due to illness, we will not send homework home; we will assume the child is too unwell to work.
- If a child is absent for a length of time, the teacher and the parent will agree what should be done, how it should be marked and what sort of help will need to be given. **In such circumstances the parent/carers should consult the Head Teacher first.**
- If parents take their child out of school in term time, something we strongly discourage, work will only be provided under specific circumstances and may not be marked by the class teacher. **In such circumstances the parent/carers should consult the Head Teacher first.**
- Parents/Carers who have queries about homework should not hesitate to make an appointment to see their child's class teacher.
- Any complaints should follow the complaints procedure which is available on the school website.