**Broadheath Primary School**

**Homework policy**

**Rationale for Homework**

Homework is a very important part of a child’s education and can add much to a child’s development. Children can benefit greatly from the complementary learning that they do at home. One of the aims of our teaching is for children to develop as independent learners and we believe that doing homework is one of the main ways in which children can acquire the skill of independent learning.

**What do we mean by Homework?**

Homework is defined as any work or activities, which pupils are asked to do outside teaching time. Homework is given to enable children to consolidate, extend and enrich their attitudes towards learning. Homework is an opportunity for parents to become active partners in supporting their child’s learning.

Our school seeks to maintain a balance between the amount of homework given and the need to rest and leisure time when children can pursue other interests.

We hope that homework is enjoyable for the child and that it will stimulate imagination and creativity as well as reinforcing what is taught in the classroom. Homework can cover a wide range of activities depending upon the age and ability of the child.

**Aims**

Homework is important because it provides an excellent means:

* To develop the partnership between Home and School.
* To consolidate and reinforce what is learnt in the classroom.
* To build up basic skills (particularly reading, writing and mathematics).
* To become curious and independent learners.
* To develop good study habits.
* To prepare for the next stage of education.

**Types of Homework**

Activities may include:

**Reception**

* Reading for pleasure and purpose – school Reading Scheme books and library books to be read each night.
* Learning letter sounds (phonics) and key words after October half term.
* Maths – weekly  Challenges
* Parents Magical Moments Books to be completed at home and shared with school.

**Key Stage 1**

* Reading for pleasure and purpose – school Reading Scheme books and library books to be read each night.
* Weekly spellings sent home for test the following week.
* Year 1 – Phonics activity – Weekly
* Year 2 English activity – Weekly
* Year 1 & 2 weekly Maths homework

**Key Stage 2**

* Reading for pleasure and purpose – school Reading Scheme books and library books to be read each night.
* Weekly spellings to be learnt and put into sentences.
* English activity – weekly
* Maths activity – weekly
* Occasional topic related or extended projects.
* Links to educational websites will be provided via the individual class blog.

**Inclusion and Homework**

We set homework for all the children as a normal part of school life. We ensure that all tasks set are appropriate to the ability of the child and we endeavour to adapt any task set so that all children can contribute in a positive way. We value and celebrate the cultural diversity of our pupils and their families and we appreciate the enrichment that this brings. As a school we allow children opportunity to present their homework  in a variety of styles and allow children to use resources which remove barriers to learning, for example, children with dyslexic tendancies.

**The Role of Parents**

Parents have a vital role to play in their child’s education and homework is an important part of this process. We ask parents to encourage their child to complete the homework tasks that are set. We invite them to help their children as and when they feel it to be necessary and to provide them with the sort of environment that allows children to do their best. Parents can support their child by providing a good working space at home, by enabling their child to visit the library regularly and by discussing the work that their child is doing. As children become older, we encourage children to become more independent and responsible for completing homework.

Parents are asked to work in partnership with school by making any relevant comments with regard to their child’s homework on the sheet or in the book provided.

Most important, parents are asked to:

* Make it clear to pupils how much they value homework and support the school in explaining how it can help their learning.
* Praise and encourage pupils when they take pride in their homework.
* Provide a peaceful and comfortable place, free from distractions such as television, where pupils can concentrate on their homework.
* Encourage pupils of all ages to read as much and widely as possible.
* Ensure Reading logs are filled in as appropriate.

**Use of ICT**

There are many websites containing highly educational material which can have a powerful effect on children’s learning. Parents are advised always to supervise their child’s access to the internet. Teachers will signpost parents to suitable websites via the class blog, newsletters or parent meetings.

**Monitoring and Review**

Clear sanctions are in place for children who do not complete their homework within the given time. In Key Stage 1 children will miss 5 minutes Golden Time for each day homework remains outstanding.

In Key Stage 2 children will miss 15 minutes Golden Time for each day late. Incompleted  homework  will be completed during Golden Time. If children in Key Stage 2 haven’t read at home then we will provide opportunity for them to read in school during morning playtime.

It is the responsibility of our governing body to agree and then monitor the school homework policy. This is done by the committee of the governing body that deals with curriculum issues. Parents complete a questionnaire regularly. Homework is also discussed with our Parent Partnership Group. The senior Management Team and our governing body pay careful consideration to any concern that is raised by any parent.