



Homework Policy

Approved by SLT on:
Review Date:

30th January 2024
Spring Term 2026

Barley Lane Primary School

Homework Policy

The governors and staff of Barley Lane Primary School believe homework consolidates and reinforces skills and understanding in Mathematics, English and other curriculum areas. It helps to raise the level of achievement of individual pupils, provides opportunities for parents/carers and children to work together and fosters an effective partnership between home and school.

Aims of the Policy

- To develop an effective partnership between the school and parents
- To ensure parents have a clear understanding about expectations from themselves and pupils
- To provide opportunities for parents and pupils to enjoy learning experiences together
- To extend and support the child's learning through reinforcement and revision
- To consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding particularly in literacy and numeracy

Homework format

All children will be provided with a homework folder or homework book. ***The work is set on Purple Mash (Y1-Y6), but children are expected to complete any written homework (writing, reading comprehension, maths or topic work) in their homework books. Homework will be given out on a Friday and will be due in on a Wednesday.*** Homework could also include activities which require parental involvement. There should also be opportunities for research projects (with the possibility of extended projects during school holidays), life skills and writing with purpose.

We use a number of web-based platforms for helping our children access their homework. We encourage families to contact class teachers in the event that they cannot access the homework online, in order for support to be provided.

- Purple Mash is used from Years 1-6 for teachers to upload the weekly homework tasks. Teachers sometimes set homework tasks from within Purple Mash. Each child has an individual login to the platform.
- Times Tables Rock Stars is a platform for learning times tables.
- Big Cat is the phonics scheme we will introduce in spring 2021, and children can access some books online
- Lexia is a reading tool which some children access throughout the year, for extra support. They should be able to log in from home.

Children will be responsible for keeping their homework books neat and tidy. Children will also be responsible for returning homework on time. Presentation of homework should be comparable to the expectation of work produced in school. Children should complete their homework in pencil except for Year 6 where written homework should be in black pen and any drawings in pencil.

The homework tasks for each year group will be published on Purple Mash each week, apart from Early Years, where tasks will be uploaded to the school website or given directly to the children.

Our Homework Schedule

Reception

- Home learning in Reception will not start straight away. There will be a phased introduction of reading and then word lists as the year progresses
- Children will be given a book to read with parents that will be matched to their individual phonics stage. Reading to a parent/carer at least five times a week for a period of 5 – 10 minutes (this time scale includes time to talk about the book). Parents are asked to sign the reading log after each session
- Word lists based on words from their reading books or phonics group
- Phonics-based activities will be given to consolidate class learning. This may be an activity sheet
- Sometimes children may receive work to complete at home to help build skills that they may be finding difficult to master at school.

Year 1

- In Year 1, when ready, the children at this stage will learn weekly spellings based on their Phonics sounds and then will extend to completing other tasks.
- Reading to a parent/carer at least five times a week for a period of 10 – 15 minutes (this time scale includes time to talk about the book). Parents are asked to sign the reading log after each session.
- A task will be set on Purple Mash which needs to be completed in the children's homework books.

Year 2

Children in Year 2 will be set work on Purple Mash and must complete written work in their homework book

- Reading to a parent/carer at least five times a week for a period of 10 – 15 minutes (this time scale includes time to talk about the book). Parents are asked to sign the reading log after each session.
- Spellings to learn, which are set and tested on a weekly basis.
- One task may be set on Purple Mash which needs to be completed in the children's homework book
- Additional grammar, maths, topic or reading activities could be set to support preparation for SATs tests instead of the above.
- Times tables to learn using the Times Tables Rock Stars online resource.

Year 3

Children in Year 3 will be set work on Purple Mash and must complete written work in their homework book

- Reading to a parent/carer (or sustained silent reading) at least five times a week for a period of 15 – 20 minutes this time scale includes time to talk about the book). Parents are asked to sign the reading log after each session.
- Spellings to learn, which are set and tested on a weekly basis.
- One numeracy task set on Purple Mash, which needs to be completed in the children's homework book
- One English or topic task set on Purple Mash, which needs to be completed in the children's homework book
- Times tables to learn using the Times Tables Rock Stars online resource.

Year 4

Children in Year 4 will be set work on Purple Mash and must complete written work in their homework book

- Reading to a parent/carer (or sustained silent reading) at least five times a week for a period of 15 – 20 minutes this time scale includes time to talk about the book). Parents are asked to sign the reading log after each session.
- Spellings to learn, which are set and tested on a weekly basis.
- One numeracy task set on Purple Mash, which needs to be completed in the children's homework book
- One English or topic task set on Purple Mash, which needs to be completed in the children's homework book
- Times tables to learn using the Times Tables Rock Stars online resource.

Year 5

Children in Year 5 will be set work on Purple Mash and must complete written work in their homework book

- Reading to a parent/carer (or sustained silent reading) at least five times a week for a period of 20 – 30 minutes (this time scale includes time to talk about the book).
- Spellings to learn, which are set and tested on a weekly basis.
- One numeracy task set on Purple Mash, which needs to be completed in the children's homework book
- One English or topic task set on Purple Mash, which needs to be completed in the children's homework book
- Times tables to learn using the Times Tables Rock Stars online resource.

Year 6

Children in Year 6 will be set work on Purple Mash and must complete written work in their homework book or on the SATs practice papers provided

- Reading to a parent/carer (or sustained silent reading) at least five times a week for a period of 20 – 30 minutes (this time scale includes time to talk about the book).
- Spellings to learn, which are set and tested on a weekly basis.
- One numeracy task set on Purple Mash, which needs to be completed in the children's homework book.

- One English and topic task set on Purple Mash, which needs to be completed in the children's homework book.
- Additional grammar, maths or reading activities could be set to support preparation for SATs tests instead of the above.
- Times tables to learn using the Times Tables Rock Stars online resource.

Feedback

All homework is checked, and feedback is given to pupils. This may take various forms, according to the work set:

- Homework marked, stamped or initialled
- Class discussion
- Individual verbal feedback
- Self- or peer-marking, guided by the teacher
- Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher Awards

Forgotten or incomplete homework

Class teachers will check homework books weekly to ensure that homework is being completed. It is our experience that children forget to bring back their homework on occasions. In such an instance the child will be expected to return their homework on the following school day. In cases where this does not occur, staff will talk to the pupil to find out their barriers to homework completion. If they continue to forget or not complete their homework over time, their class teacher will call the child's parent/carer to discuss this with them.

Special Education Needs

Homework will be differentiated to meet children's needs, which may be in a different context to the rest of the class. Tasks given by the teacher or support staff will be planned to consolidate existing learning, prepare for the next step in learning or support any specific programmes, such as for speech and language, that the child is working on in school.

The Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO) should liaise closely with class teachers to co-ordinate homework tasks for pupils who may receive extra support.

English as an Additional Language (EAL)

Staff at Barley Lane Primary School are committed to providing all our pupils access to homework. We recognise that we have a substantial number of children who speak English as an additional language and need to make provision for them to access homework tasks. Class teachers will use strategies such as giving extra oral explanations, providing differentiated tasks or asking older EAL pupils to explain a homework task in their mother tongue.

Monitoring the Effectiveness of the Policy

The effectiveness of this policy will be reviewed every two years or when the need arises, and the necessary recommendations for improvement considered by SLT.