

BROOKFIELD HOMEWORK POLICY - SEPTEMBER 2017

Why do we set homework?

Whilst the school acknowledges that research shows homework has a limited impact in terms of raising educational achievement, we still believe it has value

- It instills good learning habits for life
- It allows children to consolidate skills learnt in class; particularly in literacy and maths
- It engages and informs parents about children's current learning

What sort of homework will be set at Brookfield?

In line with what we know to be most effective, the majority of homework will concentrate on the consolidation of key literacy and numeracy skills.

Reading - Daily reading is given a high priority from Nursery to Year 6. Children across the school will be expected to read at least 5 times per week. In addition to this, children in KS2 will be expected to write a focused weekly comment about their reading in their PACT books.

Spelling - Children will receive spellings lists each term to learn, which will be tested weekly.

Mathematics - In years 2 - 6, math's homework will alternate between x tables practice and a task related to learning undertaken in class that week.

NB Homework will be differentiated to suit the needs of the individual child; either by content or outcome.

How long should homework take each week?

There are currently no government guidelines regarding how long homework should take. As a school we have decided that:

- Years 1 and 2 should spend about one hour to one hour fifteen minutes a week
- Years 3 and 4 should spend about 1 hour 30 minutes a week
- Years 5 and 6 should spend between 1 hour forty minutes to 2 hours a week (ref appendix 1)

These are only guidelines and some children may want to spend longer on some aspects of homework e.g. reading or practising timestables

When will homework be set?

Homework will be set across the school on a Thursday and handed in by the following Tuesday. This will allow children sufficient time to complete their homework either during the week or at the week-end. Daily reading should occur 5 times a week and be signed off by parents/carers. In both Key Stages, pupils' PACT books will be collected in and initialled once a week and checked on a specified day by the class teacher.

How will homework be set?

Each week, class teachers will allocate specific time to explain homework tasks. Spelling lists will be sent home at the start of each term and will be tested weekly. Maths tasks will be set on a homework sheet with instructions and examples to refer to when appropriate.

During the holidays, the expectation is that all children will continue with their reading (minimum of 3 PACT book entries per holiday).

What will happen if homework is not handed in on time?

If pupils have not completed homework, or provided a letter from a parent/carer to explain why, they will in general have to complete outstanding homework in one o'clock club. If late homework becomes a recurring problem, the class teacher will contact parents / carers to discuss this matter further.

NB As part of Brookfield's home - school agreement, all parents, carers and children agree to complete homework on time and to a good standard.

Guidance for parents and carers

How can parents help their children to learn and develop successfully?

Any help that parents and carers feel able to offer their children at home is really worthwhile. Helping a child with homework can and should be a positive experience. The individual attention a parent / carer can give, even if only for a short time, can help to motivate a child, build their confidence and self esteem and help them progress.

When helping a child with homework it is important to make this as stress free, constructive and enjoyable an experience as possible. Most children become unsettled if their parents/carers show too much anxiety or make obvious comparisons with siblings or friends. Make it clear to the children that you value learning at home and are interested in their reading and other tasks. Encourage and praise the children when they have completed their homework. It is important that homework reflects the true ability of the child.

All adults need to remember that children make lots of mistakes. Making mistakes is essential in order to learn. Mistakes do need to be put right, but not necessarily all at once.

Try to provide a suitably quiet place for the homework to be done. A routine can also be useful, so children know when homework takes place each week. With this in mind, the school offers a free homework club each week in school. Children also work much more effectively if they are not tired.

Updated: September 2017

Reviewed: July 2018

Suggested Homework Overview for 2017 - 2018

Year group	Time allocated each week to regular H/W	Daily Reading	Literacy	Maths
Nursery and YR	50 minutes	50 minutes (10 minutes x 5)	N/A	
Y1	1 hour	50 minutes (10 minutes x 5)	Handwriting, Spellings or Maths (10 minutes)	
Y2	1 hour 15 minutes	50 minutes (10 minutes x 5)	Spellings (10 minutes)	Maths task related to in class learning / times tables practice (15 minutes)
Y3	1 hour 30 minutes	1 hour (10 minutes x 5 + 1 focused written comment in PACT book)	Spellings (10 minutes)	Maths task related to in class learning / times tables practice (15 minutes)
Y4	1 hour 30 minutes	1 hour (10 minutes x 5 + 1 focused written comment in PACT book)	Spellings (10 minutes)	Maths task related to in class learning / times tables practice (15 minutes)
Y5	1 hour 40 minutes	1 hour 10 minutes (12 minutes x 5 + 1 focused written comment in PACT book)	Spellings (10 minutes)	Maths task related to in class learning / times tables (20 minutes)
Y6	2 hours	1 hour 30 minutes (15 minutes x 5 times + 1 focused written comment in PACT book)	Spellings (10 minutes)	Maths task related to in class learning / times tables (20 minutes)

NB: Reading x 5 should be recorded in children's PACT books and signed off by a parent.