

## **BORINGDON PRIMARY SCHOOL**



### **HOMEWORK POLICY**

#### **THE PURPOSE OF HOMEWORK**

An integral part of the partnership between home and school is the provision of and support for homework. The purposes of homework change as children get older.

For younger children, involving parents actively in children's learning is the key purpose and the activities children do at home may not be viewed as 'homework' in the traditional sense. Short activities of different kinds - simple games, learning words and number facts and, of course, sharing a book or reading together. These activities provide a very important opportunity for young children to talk about what they are learning to an interested adult, and to practise key skills in a supportive environment.

As children get older, homework provides an opportunity for children to develop the skills of independent learning, and this should increasingly become its main purpose. It is important that children should gradually get into the habit of regularly devoting periods of time, to study on their own. Throughout this process parental support is essential if children are to succeed. Children need to feel that interest and help from those at home is readily available.

#### **RECOMMENDED TIME ALLOCATIONS**

Clearly we want our children to look forward to each school day and spending an inordinate amount of time the previous evening doing homework is liable to dampen enthusiasm. Equally there is a need for children to develop the habit of working away from school and to understand that learning does not only happen within school.

The following time allocations for homework are average times spread over each week:-

Years 1 and 2 - 1 hour, Years 3 and 4 – 1 ½ hours, Years 5 and 6 – 2 ½ hours.

Daily reading (10-20 minutes) for all children is recommended and this can of course be considered part of homework time. On days when the homework activity is something other than reading, obviously children should be encouraged in addition to read on their own or with others. Children are informed of the days homework is to be set and by when it is to be returned.

Obviously some children will complete their home work in less time than suggested in the policy. Equally some children will be unable to complete a piece of homework in the suggested time. If this is the case we encourage the child to do as much as they are able and hand it in partially complete.

#### **CONTENT OF HOMEWORK**

Regular reading is vital. For children in Key Stage 1 this largely consists of looking at books together, reading with and to parents, and word activities. Reading practice and listening to others read then continues to be essential throughout the school. This may be done in the context of homework e.g. a six year old reading a school book to a parent or a ten year old reading a reference book for a history project. Or it may be done separately - parents reading stories to children or children reading signs or notices on the way to school.

Weekly English related homework includes learning spellings, practising handwriting and punctuation, writing stories, retrieving information, and a range of activities to support the children's skills in literacy.

In Mathematics weekly homework includes learning number bonds, multiplication and division facts, mathematical exercises, problems and games to consolidate and support the children's skills in numeracy.

Homework activities related to other curriculum areas are also provided, particularly for children in Key Stage 2. These may include research for work in History or Geography, or a project to develop skills in Science and Technology.

All children in a Year group are involved in the same homework activities. For reading, spellings, number bonds/tables these activities are differentiated dependent on the ability and needs of individual children.

### **MATERIALS FOR HOMEWORK**

All children are provided with a 'Reading Together - My Reading Record' book. This enables parents to comment on their child's progress.

From Year 3 to Year 6 children are also provided with a 'My School Homework Diary' book. This is for the children to fill in with the homework set, things to remember and, for parents to contribute comments.

All books taken home remain the property of the school. Should homework books be damaged or lost parents are requested to fund a replacement.

### **ROLE OF PARENTS**

We need the support of all parents if homework is to be purposeful to children and request parents to:

- provide a reasonably peaceful, suitable place in which children can do their homework
- make it clear to children that they value homework, and support the school in explaining how it can help their learning
- encourage children and praise them when they have completed homework
- ensure homework is completed and returned to school on time.

### **OUR AIMS**

Through this policy the school aims to:-

- ensure consistency of approach
- ensure progression towards independence and individual responsibility
- ensure the needs of individual children are considered
- ensure parents have a clear understanding about expectations from themselves and their children
- improve the quality of learning experience offered
- extend and support the learning experience
- provide opportunities for parents, children and school to work in partnership
- provide opportunities for parents and children to work together to enjoy learning experiences
- encourage children to develop long term strategies for learning throughout life.

