



1839 + Bures School

Homework Policy

Bures Primary is a school where staff endeavour to provide teaching which makes learning challenging, engaging and enjoyable; enabling pupils to reach their potential.

Rationale

By encouraging children to work on carefully selected activities at home, standards can be raised. However, research suggests that it is not the quantity of homework which is critical to children's progress at school, but the quality of time spent between parent and child on an activity. The involvement of parents is crucial to children's educational achievement.

Purposes of homework

- Involve parents in their children's learning
- Take advantage of the home context to extend and apply skills learned in school
- Encourage children to talk about their learning
- Extend time for learning and provide opportunities for extra practice of skills introduced in school
- Enhance children's independent learning skills

Homework should

- Be clearly explained and obvious to both children and parents
- Be relevant and link learning in the classroom with learning in the home
- Consolidate or extend what is being taught in school
- Be enjoyable and not a chore
- Not involve unnecessary workload for staff or parents

How much? How often?

EYFS

Reading / Sound card work – daily with a parent or another adult.

A variety of activities linked to topics which parents will be told about through a note in child's reading record or a letter. Parents are encouraged to upload comments to 'Tapestry' to record any learning experiences happening at home (these can be as simple as collecting conkers on a walk or baking a cake together.)

Key Stage 1 and 2

Reading – 4x per week (minimum) to a parent, another adult or themselves.

Children should be reading each night, recording this in their Reading Record. This does not have to be to an adult but studies have found how valuable and beneficial this can be. Please can the adult (or the child where appropriate) record the name of the book and the pages read in their Reading Record.



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Maths - Weekly engagement with 'Times Tables Rockstars' addressing concepts covered in class or practise of key skills. Teachers will monitor and celebrate progress and achievement on this online platform. (Appendix 1 has some ideas for practising times tables offline)

Spelling – Weekly addressing gaps and year group expectations.

Children will be set weekly spelling challenges on 'Spelling Frame'. These will be based on the spelling patterns they are working on in the classroom. Paper copies of lists and spelling patterns to be covered will also be sent home for parents who would prefer their children to practise their spelling skills offline.

Themed Learning Challenges – Minimum of two per term.

Children will be offered a choice of four or five themed challenges at the beginning of each new curriculum theme. They need to complete at least two of these challenges over the term but can complete more if they would like to!

Upper Key Stage Two Pupils

As the children get into Year 5 and 6, further homework activities may be set in order to prepare them for the heightened expectations in Secondary School and to support them in revising and revisiting key skills.

Marking

Reading Records will be monitored weekly by a member of staff to track pupils' reading experience. Some classes may also implement an additional weekly spelling assessment to provide further information about progress made in spelling. As children complete their Themed Learning Challenges their work will be shared with the class and celebrated on 'Seesaw'.

Guidance for Parents

Parents are encouraged to . . .

- Ask their child about what they are studying in school.
- Ask their child to show them any homework tasks.
- Assist their child in organizing homework materials.
- Help their child formulate a plan for completing homework.
- Provide an appropriate space for their child to do homework.
- Help their child interpret tasks.
- Proofread their child's work, praising good points and helping them to identify their own mistakes.
- Give practice quizzes to their child to help prepare for tests.
- Help their child brainstorm ideas.
- Praise their child for completing homework.
- Encourage their child to attend 'Homework Club' at school if they are finding it difficult to complete tasks set.



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Parents should not . . .

- Attempt to teach their child concepts or skills the child is unfamiliar with.
- Complete homework for their child.
- Allow their child to sacrifice sleep to complete homework.
- Continue to pursue any task which a child is clearly struggling to complete or finding difficult to understand. You should encourage your child to have a good try at all tasks but if you realise that they are finding it too difficult to complete then it is important that you let their teacher know.

Homework Club

Homework Club takes place weekly. Please encourage your child to make use of this opportunity to have support with their homework – particularly if they do not have access to online learning resources at home or you know that they are reluctant to engage in certain activities when they are working with you.

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Appendix 1

Ideas for Practising Times Tables (Offline)

Make and play simple times tables games e.g. cards with questions on one side and the answer on the other.

Memory game. Make cards with times table questions and answers separately. Lay cards out face down and match them up.

Real life problems - involve your child in working out real life problems involving mathematics.

Use concrete apparatus e.g. buttons, pebbles and sweets etc where necessary.

Fizz Buzz Game-count on, substituting factors of a particular times table with the word fizz e.g. 3 x table and the factors of a different times table with the word buzz e.g. 5 x table. If the number is a common factor to both you say fizz buzz. So, you would say 1, 2, fizz, 4, buzz, fizz, 7, 8, fizz, buzz, 11, fizz, 13, 14, fizz, buzz and so on.

Guess my number. Think of a number within an agreed range. Other players pose mathematical questions (a fixed amount may be set) to help identify the number e.g. is the number a multiple of 5? On receiving a yes response, a player may have a guess at the number. Clues may be given.

Countdown. Try and make a target number given a set of numbers and operators.

Have fun practising times tables with your child. A good starting point is to BUILD UPON THE FACTS THEY ALREADY KNOW e.g. 4 x tables is double the 2 x tables.

REINFORCE FUN FACTS such as all the numbers in the 2 x tables are even. If a number ends in 0, 2, 4, 6 or 8 then it is an even number and a multiple of 2.

If a number is a multiple of 2, it means it can be divided by 2. Practise multiplying numbers by 2. This is DOUBLING numbers. DOUBLE 4 is the same as saying $4 \times 2 = 8$.

Dividing a number by 2 is the same as HALVING IT, so $8 \text{ divided by } 2 = 4$.

Download a handy help with times tables booklet by visiting - <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/maths/help-with-times-tables/>