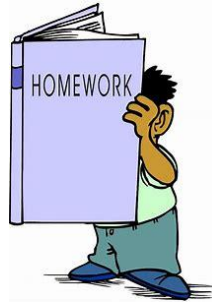


BANCHORY-DEVENICK SCHOOL

A Guide to Homework



At the end of session 2020-2021, we conducted a survey to collect child, parent and staff attitudes to homework and the results were most interesting. Whilst 18/21 parents and 4/7 staff thought that homework did add value to the child's education, only 4 parents and 1 member of staff thought it was a good use of teacher time. On the whole, the children seemed quite positive about receiving homework with 4/33 saying they enjoyed getting homework, 26 saying they did sometimes and only 3 responding with no. Some of the comments we got back were:

'I love books' (child).

'It can be frustrating spending time planning homework when not everyone completes it' (staff).

'Homework in core areas can help parents see how children are progressing as well as highlighting areas we can help' (parent).

'School is school...home is home' (child).

'In my view, homework adds stress. After school and a whole day of doing tasks it's good for children to just relax and spend some time with their parents walking, talking, drawing and playing' (parent).

'I work with mummy' (child).

'For older kids, I like tasks that they can take the responsibility to complete so it teaches them ownership and time management' (parent).

'I'm juggling so much at the moment and have done all year that it's hard to keep on top of homework demands as well' (parent).

'I like homework that's an online game like Sumdog' (child).



'I do think homework adds value as it is practicing what was learned in class. However, it's a lot of preparation by the teacher and takes away teaching time to prepare the work' (parent).

'I like doing writing homework and enjoy writing about non-fiction and history' (child).

'Value can only be determined based on what the homework is' (parent).

'I like art and drawing homework (child).

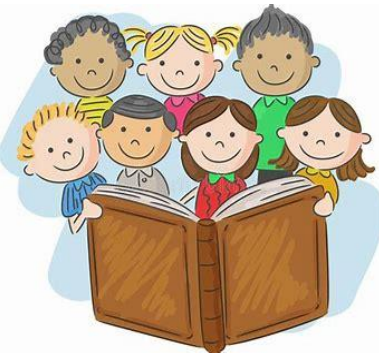
As you can see, opinions are quite varied!

Our Approach to Homework

Due to the varying needs of the families in our school community, we have decided to pilot a flexible approach to homework which concentrates on the core areas of Literacy and Numeracy, but gives scope for some independent study as the children progress further up the school.

Reading

Reading is at the heart of everything we do, and we want to encourage our learners to love books from an early age. The more you read and share stories with your child, the better! This is true, even for the older children. If they see that you are a reader, they are much more likely to become readers themselves.



Primary 1-4: We will send out one or two reading books (depending on age and stage) per week, that we would like you to hear your child read. Follow up tasks will be done in school.

Primary 5-7: By Primary 5, we hope that most children will be well on the way to becoming independent readers. If your child is not bringing school reading books home, we would like you to encourage them to read independently at least three times a week (although if they do want to read aloud to you, that's fine)! We will follow this

up in school with a half termly 'book chat' where children will have the opportunity to discuss the books they are reading with their friends and make recommendations. We will also be setting a Read Theory or Book Journal task once a fortnight for them to complete.

Spelling

1. **Primary 1-4:** You will receive a grid of games and activities that your child can use to practise their spellings. Sounds, common words and tricky words will be sent out as and when they are taught.



Primary 5-7: By now, some of the children will be quite proficient at spelling. Spelling patterns and words will continue to be revised at school and a word list will be shared with you on a fortnightly basis. The children all have a homework book with a grid of activities that they can choose from to practice their spellings. They can select as many of these as they wish over the two weeks.

Spelling will be followed up and developed within school in both classes, so there is no need to submit work completed at home back to school.

Maths

Both classes will receive a short Maths homework task per week. As times tables form a huge part of the Maths curriculum, one week will focus on the learning, consolidation and application of these. The more practise the children can have until they can recite them in their sleep, the better! Topmarks is a website we use a lot in school that can be accessed on phones, i-pads

and laptops, and the children should be able to use the website to work on their tables independently. Just bear in mind though, that the younger children may need help logging on.

P1-P2: Work will focus around the 2 and 10 times-tables.

P3: Work will focus on the 2, 4, 8 and 5, 10 times-tables (using doubling).

P4: Work will focus on the 3, 6, 12 times-tables (using doubling), and the 7, 9, 11 times tables.

P5-P7: Work will focus on consolidating all the times-tables as required, and also using division as the inverse operation.



For the second week, the Maths homework task will focus on general number consolidation. For the younger children this might be the practise of number bonds and basic sums, whereas the older children may expect to move towards the application of number in a problem-solving context.

Context Learning:

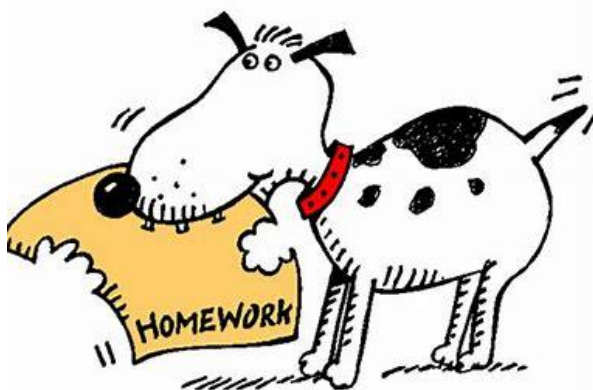
Each term, the children in **P5-P7** will be presented with a piece of topic-based homework. This might take the form of presenting a piece of research, preparing a pitch to gain funding for an invention from a panel of 'Dragons', giving a talk on a theme etc. The aim of this work, is to give the older children the opportunity to develop skills that will set them in good stead for the Academy: independence, time management, ownership etc.

Parental Guides

Parental Guides, giving suggestions of ways that you can support your child in Reading, Writing and Maths, are available on the school website. They include ideas of games, activities and useful websites and apps that you can use at home.

How We Will Share Homework

We will always go over the children's homework with them in school and explain what it is they have to do, and when it is due in. In addition, all children now have a homework diary giving details which you can check.



* Please note that these are just guidelines. For homework to be effective, there must be flexibility. Homework is an opportunity. It should not be stressful for either you or your child. If there are problems, then please let your child's class teacher know so that we can address the problem in school.