



BANCHORY-DEVENICK SCHOOL Homework



"Nothing is more powerful for your future than being a gatherer of good ideas and information. That's what's called doing your homework." John Rohn

Rationale

At Banchory-Devenick School, we recognise that pupils who have spent a busy structured day at school need time to relax and unwind at the end of the afternoon and have an opportunity to rest and play. We are also mindful of the need to encourage children to pursue out-of-school activities, e.g. swimming, dance, Beavers, Brownies, music lessons etc. We believe that homework activities should be set, but that they should not result in resentment, friction or conflict. Homework should be used to effectively consolidate and/or extend what is learned in school.

With this in mind, homework is planned to be meaningful. We hope that children will feel a sense of personal satisfaction in a task completed well and that their efforts will be recognised and praised both at home and at school. This approach aims to support children's growing perception about their ability to complete a task outside the school environment. It also fosters the skills of independent learning. We encourage children to follow up an aspect of schoolwork by visiting different sources of information, e.g. the local library, the Internet, etc. We want the children to think of this work as valuable and as a challenge, and as such, set homework should be completed to the best of the individual child's ability. We hope parents and carers will be willing and able to give their active support to ensure that any work done at home is completed conscientiously and in the best possible conditions. Parents/carers are valuable partners in the education of our pupils, and we welcome them giving any necessary support.

Aims

We believe that homework should always have a purpose and should never be done just for the sake of it. We believe the purposes include:

- Developing an effective partnership between the school and parents/carers...homework can give parents an insight into what their child is learning in class and how they are getting on.
- An opportunity to consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding, particularly in Literacy and Maths.
- Extending school learning, e.g. through additional reading and research.
- Encouraging pupils to develop the confidence and self-discipline needed to study on their own.
- Preparing older children for the requirements of self-study at secondary school level.

Guidelines

School

In consultation with parents (May 2021), it was agreed that weekly homework would focus on Literacy and Numeracy for all children in P1-P7. In addition, the children in P5-P7 would be set a more topical piece of homework on a termly basis.

Details of homework tasks and activities will always be discussed with children and appropriate information/sheets sent home via a Homework Diary. In addition, children who are reading guided books in P1-P4 will have a Reading Diary showing what books/pages are to be practised and for when.

P1-P4

1. Reading - One or two reading books (depending on age and stage) will be sent out per week that we would like parents/carers to hear their child read. Follow up tasks will be done in school.
2. Spelling - All children will receive a grid of games and activities that they can use to practise their spellings. Sounds, common words and tricky words will be sent out as and when they are taught.
3. Maths - A short weekly task will focus on reinforcing the numeracy that the children are doing in school. This could be practise of number bonds, addition/subtraction or times tables.

P5-P7

1. Reading - We would like parents/carers to either encourage their children to read independently three times weekly, or for them to read with them. These should be books of the children's choosing that they will enjoy. 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.
2. Spelling - 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 sent home 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.
3. Maths - Work will focus on consolidating all the times-tables as required, and also using multiplication and division as inverse operations. In addition, children will be given an optional piece of Maths homework on a fortnightly basis. This work will generally focus on the application of number in a problem-solving context.
4. Context for Learning - Each term, the children 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.

Home

We recognise that parents/carers have a key role to play in supporting homework. The nature of this role naturally evolves and changes as the children get older. We welcome parents/carers assisting their child with tasks, especially when they are younger, and would encourage children to discuss what they are doing and show parents their work when they are older.

1. Consideration should be given to when and where a child completes homework tasks and activities. It is important they aren't too tired or rushed and have a place to work which is free from other distractions.
2. Parents are encouraged to support their child when undertaking homework tasks. This can be an opportunity to spend valuable and quality time together.
3. Parents should feel free to provide feedback to school whenever difficulties arise, and effort should be recognised and acknowledged.

November 2022

Appendix

- A Guide to Homework