



Homework Policy

**Draft Spring 2009
Agreed by Governors 23.04.09**

Homework Policy

This policy has been revised to reflect the feedback from pupils, parents and staff in our detailed homework questionnaire (Dec 2008).

Our homework policy aims to:

- ❑ Encourage an interest and love of learning in the world around them
- ❑ Support children to become self motivated, independent learners
- ❑ Support development of a wide range of learning capacities
- ❑ Involve parents and carers in their child's learning
- ❑ Contribute to raising attainment and the development of basic skills
- ❑ Support transition to secondary school

How it is set and organised

Each year group has a designated timetabled period in which homework is set on a weekly basis. Homework is recorded in the pupils' Homework Book each week. Sometimes, particularly for maths, there will be a specific task sheet to be completed. The teacher setting the homework will always discuss the homework fully in class. Children can ask teachers for additional guidance at any stage in the week in which they have to complete the homework.

Bushfield homework has two parts:

Compulsory homework:

This is largely to reinforce learning in class and to practise key skills. The expectations reflect DfES guidance and the age and maturity of the children in preparation for secondary school.

	Reading (recorded in Personal Log)	Spelling (Lists stuck in Personal Log)	Maths (Recorded in Homework Book)
Year 3	10 mins a day with adult	Up to 15 words each week, differentiated	30 mins maths task each week
Year 4	10 mins a day with adult	Up to 15 words each week differentiated	30 mins maths task each week
Year 5	15 mins 3 x weekly	Up to 15 words each week differentiated	30 mins maths task each week
Year 6	15 mins 3 x weekly	Up to 15 words each week differentiated	40 mins maths task each week

Optional Challenge:

Sometimes children are so excited about what they've been learning that they just don't want to stop – and nor do we want to stop them! An Optional Challenge is a way for them to channel this curiosity if they wish. We want to encourage children to be self motivated in their learning and this part of the weekly homework enables us and the pupils to pursue more naturally occurring, relevant lines of interest. This will be a less formal, more open ended task where children are encouraged to explore a topic or find out about something that has been of interest to them, or the class, during the week. It may be led by an individual pupil or group of children and can be tailored to reflect individual lines of enquiry. The form of recording for this homework element is much freer and individualised and may include verbal feedback, pictures, annotations etc. Class time will be dedicated each week to sharing this home learning. This optional task will be recorded in the Homework Books. All additional homework will be marked or receive feedback from the teacher as appropriate.

Parental support

Homework is set and organised so that children can work and complete homework independently. However, homework is a great way of providing some focused quality time with children whilst also becoming more familiar with their learning and the curriculum. Parents are seen as a key element in making homework a success. Their support, through providing a place to complete homework, providing basic resources and encouraging their child, is essential.

What if homework isn't done?

The school will endeavour to encourage children to complete their homework on time. We feel this practices a life-skill that enables them to meet deadlines. We balance this with the belief that children do need time to be children and ensure that homework set does not take up an excessive amount of time. A full week to do homework allows children to make choices about when it can be completed. Parents are asked to inform the school if there are exceptional circumstances that mean that homework cannot be completed. Just as holidays are a time when adults enjoy freedom from the usual work deadlines, children should be free of homework.

Bushfield also runs a weekly Homework Club that is open to individual pupils who may want to use the school's ICT and internet resources, gain additional adult help or have access to a regular, quiet environment in which to complete their homework

Every effort will be made to support children with their homework and parents are invited to contact teachers if homework is proving difficult. Contact will be made with parents if children are regularly not completing homework.

Assessment and Record Keeping:

- A list is kept by each class teacher of all homework handed in (There are proforma letters that can be used to inform parents when compulsory parts of weekly homework have not been completed.)
- Reading logs and spelling lists are kept in the Personal Organisers.
- Optional tasks are recorded in the Homework Books.
- All homework is expected to set a realistic challenge to the child.

Equal Opportunities:

- Any homework set is expected to give every child an equal opportunity to complete it. (If there are any resources required in order to complete the homework then the school should offer its own resources if the child cannot access them.)

- ❑ Any homework set will take into account any cultural differences that may exist within the school.
- ❑ A homework club is offered to children

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review:

- ❑ This policy will be subject to a review at least once every two years by staff and governors
- ❑ The quality of homework will be sampled within year groups and as part of the ongoing monitoring, evaluation and review cycle.
- ❑ Personal Organisers will be taken in regularly to support monitoring of Personal Reading
- ❑ Parents' views of the quality and amount of homework will be sought periodically.

signed (on behalf of the governors)

signed..... (Headteacher/Deputy)

date.....

