Blackmoor Park Junior School

Homework Policy

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Approval body	BPJS Governing Body
Chair of Governing Body	David Moore
Headteacher	Sonja Harrison

BPJS Motto:
'Learning together'

BPJS Vision: ***'Be the best that I can be'***

- To grow ambitious, self-motivated and successful learners.
- To develop learners who are resilient, achieve their potential and grow into caring, responsible and open minded citizens prepared for life beyond the classroom
- To encourage a lifelong enjoyment of learning leading to personal growth and fulfilment

Mission Statement

- Everyone is valued and supported
- Confidence is developed
- Expectations are raised
- Teamwork is promoted
- Partnerships are fostered
- Individuals work towards achieving their full potential for themselves and the wider community

BPJS Aims:

- For our school to be a welcoming, safe and happy place where children celebrate and respect the background, culture and beliefs of themselves and others.
- To have high expectations and aspirations for all our children.
- To offer a broad and rich curriculum which fosters ambition and develops enquiring minds, a knowledge of the world, an appreciation of the arts and love for sports.
- To uphold excellent attitudes to learning and behaviour
- To encourage children to develop our core values
- To encourage children to take pride in their pursuits and celebrate their achievements.
- For our school to be an integral part of the community and with the help of parents/ carers, we strive to develop the inclusion and support of tour wider community to benefit our children and families.

Core Values

Working in partnership with our school community, we are determined to develop the following values in our children:
Confidence, self-belief and belief in others, pride & ambition; curiosity; honesty; positivity; inclusiveness; empathy; friendship; respect; tolerance; individuality; responsibility; cooperation; global awareness; resilience and creativity.

Our Curriculum Drivers

- Ambition
- Knowledge of the World
- Arts and sports
- Enquiry

Equal opportunities

We regard all children as mathematicians, scientists, artists, musicians, authors, poets, gymnasts and linguists; therefore we provide an education that promotes high standards and excellence for <u>all</u> members of our school community.

We have a firm commitment to the promotion of equal opportunities in this school and are constantly reflecting on our own practice to ensure that we:

- Offer all pupils a broad and balanced curriculum which is appropriate to their individual needs;
- Encourage pupils to adopt a respectful and open-minded attitude to others.
- We do not tolerate any behaviour that intends to lower the self-esteem of another person or group of people.

Introduction

At BPJS, we believe that homework can add much to a pupil's development and attainment and is therefore an important part of a child's education.

Aims of the policy

Through implementation of this policy, we aim to:

- Give pupils the opportunity to extend their learning in areas of personal interest
- Ensure a consistent approach throughout the school
- To encourage children to develop the confidence, independence, self-discipline and motivation needed to study on their own and prepare them for the next phase of education
- To make set homework relevant and meaningful for the child linked to work done at school
- Make expectations about homework clear to children, parents and other carers
- Provide opportunities for parents and children to work together, thereby, fostering an effective partnership between home and school

Why do we value homework?

Children benefit greatly from the mutual support of parents and teachers in encouraging them to learn both at home and at school. By valuing home-school learning, pupils are afforded the chance to practice skills, consolidate understanding of work covered in the classroom and to widen their own interests. Moreover, developing good study habits provides an opportunity for pupils to develop self-discipline, independence and the ability to take responsibility for their own learning.

Principles

- The amount and difficulty of homework is tailored according to the child's age and ability.
- Sufficient time is allowed for the completion of homework to allow for a healthy home/school work balance.
- As the children progress through the school so the amount of homework increases.
- Teachers ensure that the tasks are differentiated, purposeful and aimed at developing and consolidating basic skills.
- Teachers provide parents and pupils with clear learning objectives and motivational instructions for tasks as well as clear examples of work to guide both children and adults.
- High expectations for neat presentation are in place to ensure that children maintain a similar high standard of work at home as in school.
- Homework should be linked to previous learning and key skills and must be meaningful and relevant
- Tasks are to be completed in the children's homework books. gradual progression of skills and expectation so that by the time children reach Year 6 they have established a clear routine in preparation for secondary school

Setting of homework.

We will set homework using online platforms which include: Google Classroom, Mathletics & Times Table Rockstars. We will also provide paper based homework for those unable to access the platforms for any reason.

Lower Key Stage 2 (Y3&4)

- Reading at least 5 times a week – 3 signatures in reading diary
- Learning times tables using Times Tables Rockstars (continuing with 2, 5 and 10 and learning of multiplication facts 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11 when ready)
- A spelling list will be provided each week on a specific day and tested on the following week
- Children may be given a specific literacy and/or numeracy activity

Upper Key stage 2 (Y5&6)

- Reading at least 5 times a week – 3 signatures in reading diary
- Learning of multiplication facts ongoing - all tables to be revised, in any order, mixed and to include division
- A spelling list will be provided each week on a specific day and tested the following week
- Children may be given a specific literacy and/or numeracy activity
- From the Spring Term, Y6 children will also have SATs revision as homework

Expectations

It is the expectation that all children will at least attempt to complete homework tasks to the best of their ability. If pupils need support to access these activities, then they should inform the class teacher who set the homework. Dates for handing homework in are always made explicit by the class teacher (usually given out on a Thursday or Friday and returned the following Thursday or Friday). Pupils are expected to complete homework to the same high standards insisted on in class e.g. neat handwriting, accurate use of full stops and capital letters etc.

Below is a list of ways that you as a parent can show your child that you value their homework and the time and effort spent completing it. The school will also provide clear and regular reminders of their expectation when it comes to homework. As a school we hope that you will find this guidance helpful in supporting your child fully with their homework.

You can show you value your child's homework by:

- Providing a suitable place in which your child can do their homework, preferably with an adult to discuss, encourage and support
- Making it clear to your child that you value homework and support the school in explaining how it can help learning
- Encouraging your child and praising them when they have completed work set
- Signing and dating your child's completed homework to show that it is a true reflection of their best efforts
- Ensuring work is complete and returned to school on time
- Checking your child spends a suitable amount of time on homework

Additionally, you can support your child's development by:

- Visits to libraries, museums etc.
- Cooking with them
- Taking your child swimming
- Playing games, e.g. board games, cards, ball games
- Watching informative TV programmes together

- Providing opportunities for craft activities, e.g. cutting, sticking, sewing, painting etc.
- Gardening and growing plants
- Using the internet to research something with your child
- Talking to your child about schoolwork, their day, what they have been learning about and how they have been learning.

Homework is about reinforcing, practicing and confidence building… Enthusing your child about undertaking homework and modelling the high value of homework to them is of key importance.