

St Matthew's Bloxam C of E Primary School



Home Learning Policy 2023

Introduction

At St Matthew's Bloxam C of E Primary School, we believe that home learning can add to a pupil's development and attainment and is therefore an important part of a child's education to let their light shine.

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 home learning relevant and meaningful for the child linked to work done at school,
- Make expectations about home learning clear to children, parents and carers,
- Provide opportunities for parents / carers and children to work together, thereby, fostering an effective partnership between home and school.

Why do we value home learning?

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 home learning is tailored according to the child's age and ability.
- Sufficient time is allowed for the completion of home learning to allow for a healthy home/school work balance.
- As the children progress through the school so the amount of home learning increases.
 - Teacher's ensure that the tasks are differentiated, purposeful and aimed at developing and consolidating basic skills.
- Teachers provide parents/carers 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.
- Home learning should be linked to previous learning and key skills and must be meaningful and relevant.
- Parents/Carers will be informed about our aims in setting home learning and about the importance this type of work plays in children's education

Home Learning Activities

Our home learning is designed to build upon the concepts and skills that pupils have been learning across a range of subjects. In addition to daily reading, weekly spellings and times table practice as well as theme based home learning. Pupils hand their home learning books in to their class teacher weekly.

Foundation Stage

- EYFS given weekly tasks to support learning.
- Reading and sharing books daily.
- Children will be given additional 'top-up' practice of phonic sounds and/or common exception words.

Key Stage 1

- Reading/sharing books with parents/carers at least 4 times weekly.
- Children will be given a list of spellings to learn which will follow the spelling patterns taught in their phased groups or linked to curriculum.
- Learning of multiplication facts 2, 5, 10 (and starting on 3 when ready) using Times Table Rock Stars or maths questions.
- Activities linked to the current theme.

Key Stage 2

- Reading at least 4 times a week.
- 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) or maths questions.
- A spelling list will be provided each week on a specific day and tested on the following week.
- Activities linked to the current theme.

Expectations

It is the expectation that all children will at least attempt to complete home learning tasks to the best of their ability. If pupils need support to access these activities, then they can ask their class teacher / TA for support. Dates for handing home learning in are always made explicit by the class teacher. Pupils are expected to complete home learning to the same high standards insisted on in class e.g. neat handwriting, accurate use of full stops and capital letters etc.

How you can help your child with their home learning

Below is a list of ways that you as a parent/carer can show your child that you value their home learning and the time and effort spent completing it. As a school we hope that you will find this guidance helpful in supporting your child fully with their home learning.

You can show you value your child's home learning by:

- providing a suitable place in which your child can do their home learning, preferably with an adult to discuss, encourage and support,
- making it clear to your child that you value home learning and support the school in explaining how it can help learning,
- encouraging your child and praising them when they have completed work set,
- ensuring work is complete and returned to school on time,
- checking your child spends a suitable amount of time on home learning.

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 programs 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 (following guidelines for safe internet use)
- talking to your child about schoolwork, their day, what they have been learning about and how they have been learning

Remember: Home learning is about reinforcing, practicing and confidence building...
Enthusiasing your child about undertaking home learning and modelling the high value of home learning to them is of key importance.
Make it fun!

This policy will be monitored by the governing body and reviewed every three years, or earlier in the light of any changes in legislation and circumstance, either in our school or the local area.