

Homework Policy

Buchanhaven School recently ran a homework consultation and asked pupils, staff and parents for their views and opinions on homework. Pupils were able to trial different approaches to homework over a three month period and these were then evaluated at the end of the session. The results from the consultation showed that the majority of our pupils, parents and staff wanted some type of homework and that it was important for children to engage in some form of homework. (Copy of consultation findings available on request).

Why Is Homework Important?

Homework helps children to:

- Learn how to organise and manage their time.
- Take more responsibility for their own learning.
- Practise and build on what they have learned at school.
- Learn and work independently in the future.

Homework can also let you find out what your child is doing at school and get involved in their learning. When it comes to homework, it's the quality that matters and not the quantity - the kind of homework your child does is often more important than the amount. At Buchanhaven School we expect homework to take no longer than fifteen minutes a night. How we learn is as unique as our fingerprint so every child might well approach homework differently and this is something that we have carefully considered when setting our homework this year.

Our Types of Homework and Why:

- Reading: Reading is a fundamental part of learning and can help children improve many aspects of language including word recognition, spelling, comprehension, story structure, word attack skills and can enhance the imagination. When your child reads to/with you at home, you can help them develop their fluency, talk to them about what they have understood and ask them to re-tell the story in their own words.
- Spelling: Our pupils begin by learning individual letters and sounds, then start learning phonemes (two or three letters together such as "th", "ch", "ing"). Our pupils will also learn spelling rules and patterns before learning more complex vocabulary in the middle and upper stages. You will find your child's spelling list in their homework jotter each week. There will be no expectation that your child needs to copy out these words or do a follow up task (such as sentences), however, if this is something your child enjoys and finds beneficial, they can continue to do so. Follow up tasks will not be set as class homework but a list of suggested games or activities that your child can use to help them learn their spelling words can be sent home if requested.

- Times Tables: From P1 to P7 we encourage our pupils to begin learning their times tables as these are an integral part of mathematics and mental maths. Good recall of table facts will increase a child's confidence and success when working on many different aspects of maths. Each primary will focus on learning selected tables. Your child will be provided with a times table card showing the focus tables for that year. Additional multiplication activities, ideas or games can be supplied from the class teacher on request.
- Talks (Show and Tell for infant stages): Speaking in front of an audience or large crowd can be daunting for many people so we would like to equip our pupils with the skills and confidence needed to do so. In every primary our pupils will develop their confidence and self-esteem when speaking to an audience starting with simple 'show and tell' talks, moving onto personal talks and ending with researched and prepared talks in the upper stages. This is a life-long skill that we feel our pupils will really benefit from.
- Learning Logs: Homework should also be a chance for pupils to show and reflect on what they have learned. A learning log allows pupils the chance to be creative and show their learning in their preferred style. It also gives our pupils an invaluable chance to organise and present their work using their own initiative. Learning logs should be driven by the children as they take responsibility for their learning. During our consultation process, learning logs were voted as the most popular type of homework by both our pupils and our staff members.

Homework Expectations:

- P1: In Primary 1 our pupils will have two reading books sent home a week (please note reading will not start instantly), a set of tricky words to learn weekly and will focus on the x1 times table over the course of the year. P1s will do a very short "show and tell" talk once a term.
- P2: In Primary 2 our pupils will have two reading books sent home a week, a spelling list to practise each week and will focus on the x2 and x10 times tables over the course of the year. P2s will have a show and tell talk (longer length than P1) at least twice a year. P2s will also complete 2 learning logs over the year.
- P3: In Primary 3 our pupils will have two sets of reading a week (it may be whole books or sections of a longer book), a spelling list to practise each week and will focus on the x4 and x5 times tables over the course of the year. P3s will have a show and tell talk (longer length than P3) at least twice a year. P3s will also complete 3 learning logs over the year.

- P4: In Primary 4 our pupils will have two sets of reading a week (it may be whole books or sections of a longer book), a spelling list to practise each week and will focus on the x3, x6 and x9 times tables over the course of the year. P4s will have at least one prepared and timed talk to deliver over the year. P4 pupils will also prepare one learning log a term.
- P5: In Primary 5 our pupils will have two sets of reading a week (it may be whole books or sections of a longer book), a spelling list to practise each week and will focus on the x7 and x8 times tables over the course of the year. P5s will have at least one prepared and timed talk to deliver over the year. P5 pupils will also prepare five learning logs over the course of the year.
- P6: In Primary 6 our pupils will have two sets of reading a week (it may be whole books or sections of a longer book), a spelling list to practise each week and will focus on the x11 and x12 times tables over the course of the year. P6s will have at least one prepared and timed talk to deliver over the year. P6 pupils will also prepare six learning logs over the course of the year.
- P7: In Primary 7 our pupils will have two sets of reading a week (it may be whole books or sections of a longer book), a spelling list to practise each week and will complete a general revision of all times table. P7s will have at least one prepared and timed talk to deliver over the year. P7 pupils will also prepare up to seven learning logs over the course of the year.

All of our pupils will be encouraged to learn a Scottish/Burns poem at the beginning of January as we celebrate Burns Night and have our annual poetry competition. Pupils will not be expected to complete any type of junk modelling projects, personal research projects or art projects at home.

When Does Homework Happen?

We understand that there are some times of the year which are busier than others so we will only be setting homework during the following times.

<u>Term</u>	<u>Homework Starts</u>	<u>Homework Ends</u>
Term 1 (Aug-Oct)	Week 3	End of term
Term 2 (Oct - Dec)	Week 2	End of week 5 (no homework for last 3 weeks - we know Christmas is an exciting and busy time!)
Term 3 (Jan - Mar)	Week 2	End of term
Term 4 (Apr - July)	Week 2	End of week 8 (no homework for last 3 weeks - enjoy the light nights, go outside and play!)

- Usually spelling lists will be issued on a Monday so that pupils have time to practise the words before the spelling test at the end of the week. Reading days will differ depending on each class, please check your class newsletter or child's reading record to see which day their homework is for. Individual notes with more information about show and tell talks or learning logs will be issued by the class teacher throughout the year.

Homework Club:

This session we aim to offer a homework club on Wednesday afternoons, open to all our pupils and their families from 3:00pm - 4:00pm. Homework club is held in the dining room in school and begins with a snack for our pupils after a busy day in class! Several members of staff will be present at the homework club ready to help your child with their reading, spelling or any aspect of homework. Pupils who come to homework club **must be accompanied by an adult.**



Additional Help:

If you feel that your child would benefit from some other type of homework or additional practise on a specific topic, please contact your child's teacher and they will be able to send tasks, suggested games/activities, a list of websites or apps home. Similarly if a class teacher notices that your child is finding a particular area tricky they may contact you and ask if you would like some additional work to reinforce the learning at home.

Did You Know?

- When schools and families work together, children do better.
- Children learn something well when they talk about it or explain it to someone else, so asking your child about their homework really helps them.
- Children who do homework regularly throughout their time at school benefit from the equivalent of roughly an extra year's schooling.
- Between the ages of 5 and 16, children spend only 15% of their lives in school so supporting them at home really improves their chances of success.
- Parents and families are by far the most important influences on children's lives.

Please remember, if you have any queries about any type of homework, please do not hesitate to contact the school or your child's teacher - we are here to help.