

Approach to Homework



Ben Jonson Primary School
2022 - 2023

Homework Principles

Why give homework?

- It can inform parents about work going on in class;
- It can further stimulate enthusiasm for learning;
- It takes advantage of the home environment and resources and the chance for some one to one adult time;
- It can be a great source for gathering topic information to share with all the children;
- It is a great opportunity to rehearse key skills such as times tables, doubling facts, addition sums, spellings, handwriting and other key facts;
- It helps to foster good habits of organisation and self-discipline in preparation for the demands of Secondary School.

Homework at our school

Whilst we support all of the above key principles, Ben Jonson is not a school at which homework dominates home and school life.

A school day is long and the children work hard from 9.00am until 3.30pm. Some start school at 8.00am for breakfast club and others stay for after school activities and do not leave school until 5.00pm. After the end of the school day (and at the weekend) many of our children attend additional classes for Arabic, Islamic Studies, home language tuition, music classes, sports activities, leisure activities or have caring responsibilities.

We believe that homework should be enjoyable and manageable for all concerned and that if it becomes a chore/burden/source of conflict it ceases to be a constructive aspect of teaching and learning. The children are not punished if they fail to complete the work

Though we might specify amounts of time that could be spent on a task, we prefer that individual children and families set their own routines. Individual teachers are happy to give advice.

On-line Learning – Google Classroom

Ben Jonson is committed to offering your children the best support it can give, in school as well as out of school hours. We have therefore set up individual accounts to a single, safe online learning environment for your children to access from home.

Starting from Year R onwards, we use “Google Classroom”, to post the homework for the following week. In order to access Google Classroom, parents need to log on using the individual logins provided by your child’s class teacher. Guides on how to log in to Google Classroom can be found on our school website.

However, we know that there is a ‘digital divide’ for some families at Ben Jonson and in schools across the country. In many homes the only device available to look at homework on Google Classroom is a mobile phone. Mobile phones are not suitable for children to complete homework. Consequently, each child will have a homework exercise book in which they can complete their homework. Parents may choose to look at the homework on Google Classroom and then complete the homework in the homework book. Teachers will still post the homework on Google Classroom in order that other materials can be accessed e.g. links for websites etc. that may be useful for parents to refer to when supporting their child with their homework.

There are many other useful educational resources online that teachers may draw your attention to. These online learning opportunities are voluntary, but they do give your child an opportunity to continue their learning outside school and support their work within school.

Spelling Homework

For each year group in the school, different groups of words will be given appropriate to the expectations of the curriculum:

- In EYFS, the children are constantly challenged to first read, then spell all of their High Frequency Words.
- In Years 1 & 2, children build on their phonics knowledge each week to spell common word groups as well as some notable exceptions. Children in KS1 work towards learning the words on the National Curriculum word list for Years 1 & 2.
- In Years 3 & 4, children work at their weekly spellings to learn the words on the National Curriculum word list for Years 3 & 4.
- In Years 5 & 6, children work at their weekly spellings to learn the words on the National Curriculum word list for Years 5 & 6. They are tested on spellings in Year 6 as part of their SATs.

Each child will have a blue spelling notebook.

Six class spellings are given each week in Years 1 – 6. To this list will be added **four** individual spellings with which that child has had difficulty in their learning. The children will be tested on their spellings in their Literacy lesson **each Friday**.

Techniques

There are many techniques for helping your child remember spellings. Here are just a few:

1. Read-Cover-Write-Check. After reading the word to memorise it, cover the word and write down the spelling. You can check as soon as you have finished.
2. Chunking. Splitting words into syllables can be helpful, especially where there are 'silent' letters (e.g. Wednesday).
3. Creativity. Making up a rhyme, song or acronym often helps. (e.g. 'Rhythm has your two hips moving.')

Maths Homework

Depending on the year group, maths homework is given out and returned on different days during the week and the activities/questions will be linked to the children's current learning.

As well as working on this homework, parents and carers can inspire their children to be successful in maths by helping them practice their times tables (to 12) and other key targets specific to their year group. Instant recall of these facts enables children to become more confident in the subject and more successful at calculation. At Ben Jonson we use **Times Tables Rockstars** to help children practice. Please ask your child's teacher for login details if you are unsure of how to practice this

Support for the written calculation methods can be found on the website in the Ben Jonson calculation policy.

The application of maths skills in real life experiences can also be hugely beneficial, e.g. using real money in shops to experience counting coins and dealing with 'change', or weighing ingredients when cooking. Activities such as these allow children to understand how to estimate measures and apply mathematical knowledge in a real-life context.

English

Children will receive English homework related to appropriate to the expectations of the curriculum for their year group. This might include:

- Reading a passage and retrieving key information
- Punctuation and grammar practice
- Writing for a purpose

Music Homework

All children are encouraged to participate in our weekly singing celebration, 'Song of the Week'. You can join in at home too thanks to the fantastic resources provided on the website. Just click on 'Media' and sing along!

Some children who have shown enthusiasm and aptitude are part of lunchtime clubs. They may bring an instrument home to practise their pieces. In this case, little and often (15 minutes five times a week) is better than one, longer practice session."

Meeting end of year expectations

We know parents are really keen to help their children achieve their potential and meet age-related expectations where possible.

At the end of each year group homework page, there are two key objectives we hope children will meet with both school support and parental support.

The first is focussed on English and focusses on being able to read, write and spell the key words related to that year group.

The second is a key maths objective focussed on making your child confident with number.

Homework will focus on a range of elements but these additional foci would be really well supported if they were practised regularly at home.

Your child's teacher will explain to you how you can help to practise these at home.

Useful Website Addresses

http://www.bbc.co.uk/learning/subjects/childrens_learning.shtml

<http://www.benjonson.towerhamlets.sch.uk>

Nursery Homework Expectations

There is very little in the way of homework for children in nursery. All we would ask is that parents spend time with their children playing, talking and sharing books. Teaching children how to share with their siblings is also really helpful. Physically lots of outdoor exercise is also helpful.

Toilet training

In terms children learning to care for themselves, where children are getting used to being toilet trained we would ask parents to work with the nursery to make sure any child in nappies when they start nursery and out of nappies as soon as possible, unless there are specific medical needs.

Reading for pleasure

We would encourage parents to join a local library or IDEA store so that their children can borrow books. When you read with your child, the focus is on parents sharing books with their child rather than children reading to parents. There is no formal teaching of reading in nursery but we do a lot of work to encourage a love of books and reading and your support outside of school in encouraging this is much appreciated.

If your child is showing signs of wanting to write their name or is interested in the print in books, ask your child's nursery teacher for advice for what they could do at home.

Reception Homework Expectations

Reading expectations: Focus is on parents sharing books with their child rather than children reading to parents.

Autumn Term: 1 book a week – read by parent to child – focus is reading for pleasure

Spring Term: Reading for pleasure book + reading book at child's reading level (read by child to parent)

Summer Term: Reading for pleasure + levelled reading book + RWInc paper book (if at that level)

How often: Books changed once a week.

How long for: Books are kept for the week and changed on a set day (will vary between classes) with Teaching Assistants monitoring book choice.

What homework	When is it set	When is it returned	How it will be checked
Read Write Inc Phonics	Daily	Daily	TAs check books to see if homework has been completed
Spelling – High Frequency words in a HFW word book	Set day for each class	Following week on same day	Teacher/ NNEB go through words with groups on day of return
Mathematics	N/A		
English	N/A		

Key end of year expectations

English: Read, write and spell all 45 high frequency words

Maths: Read and count in order up to 10

Year 1 Homework Expectations

Reading expectations:

Children should read every night. The titles of the books are recorded on the correct date in the planner and parents sign, reading books are changed once a week on a Friday.

Children receive two reading books appropriate to their reading level and a reading for pleasure book that can be read by their parent/ carer to them.

How often: every night

How long for: 10 minutes

What homework	When is it set	When is it returned	How it will be checked
Handwriting	Friday	Friday	Sheets collected and checked on Thursday
Spelling	Friday	Children keep the sheets to practise	Test the following Friday – introduced in Spring term
Mathematics	Friday	Following Thursday	Acknowledged in homework books
English	N/A	N/A	N/A
Read Write Inc	Monday	Children take home a paper copy of the book they have read in RWI to keep for the week.	Fluency and understanding of the text checked during RWI sessions.

Key end of year expectations

English: Read, write and spell all Year 1 high frequency words

Maths: Use number bonds and related subtraction facts within 20

Year 2 Homework Expectations

Reading expectations:

Children should read every night, the title of the book is recorded on the correct date in the planner and parents sign, reading books are changed twice a week

How often: every night

How long for: 10 minutes

What homework	When is it set	When is it returned	How it will be checked
Spelling	Friday	Children keep the sheets to practise.	Test the following Thursday.
Mathematics	Thursday	By the following Thursday.	Shared in the maths lesson the following Friday. The homework is displayed on the IWB and 5 - 10 mins are spent discussing it. Children check their own learning.

Literacy	Thursday	By the following Thursday.	Addressed in the literacy lessons that week. On Friday the homework is displayed on the IWB and 5 - 10 mins are spent discussing it.
Read Write Inc	When a reading book is completed.	Children take home a paper copy of the book they have read in RWI to keep at home.	Children keep the book at home.

Key end of year expectations

English: Read, write and spell all Year 2 high frequency words

Maths: Recall and use addition and subtraction facts and derive and use related facts to 100

Year 3 Homework Expectations

Reading expectations:

One book, at the child's reading level, is selected from class library per week. For identified children they may also take home a levelled book.

How often: children should read their book at home every night

How long for: 15 minutes

What homework	When is it set	When is it returned	How it will be checked
Spelling	Thursday	Thursday	Spelling test once a week.
Mathematics	Thursday	Tuesday	Checked in class as part of lesson.
English	Thursday	Tuesday	Checked in class as part of lesson.
Read Write Inc (Only for those children still on the Read Write Inc programme)	When a reading book is completed	Children take home a paper copy of the book they have read in RWI to keep at home.	Children keep the book at home.

For some targeted children, there may be some additional literacy or numeracy tasks to complete at home as part of this intervention

Key end of year expectations

English: Read, write and spell all Year 3 high frequency words

Maths: Recall and use multiplication and division facts for the 2, 5- and 10-times tables including recognising odd and even numbers

Year 4 Homework Expectations

Reading expectations:

Children on chapter books take one book home and change it as soon as they have finished. For identified children who are on levelled benchmark books, they select one book at their level and have the option of taking one more book to read with an adult at home.

Books are changed as soon as they have finished reading it.

How often: children should read their book at home **every night**.

How long for: 25 minutes

What homework	When is it set	When is it returned	How it will be checked
Spelling	Friday	Thursday	Spelling test every Friday.
Mathematics	Friday	Thursday	Teacher or TA checks and mark on checklist
English	Friday	Thursday	Teacher or TA checks and marks on checklist

For some targeted children, there may be some additional literacy or numeracy tasks to complete at home as part of this intervention.

Key end of year expectations

English: Read, write and spell all Year 4 high frequency words

Maths: Recall and use multiplication and division facts for multiplication tables up to 12X12

Year 5 Homework Expectations

Reading expectations: Children expected to read independently but to have an adult at home checking what they are reading.

How often: Every night

How long for: At least half an hour a night

Once a week, as part of the Guided Reading carousel, children complete a book review about a book they have been reading at home. This is checked by the teacher or assistant teacher.

What homework	When is it set	When is it returned	How it will be checked
Spelling	Friday	Monday	In class test on learnt spellings every Thursday.
Mathematics	Friday	Monday	Self-marked as part of lesson.

Literacy / foundation subjects	Friday	Monday	Homework is shared during a feedback session in class and excellent work is celebrated.
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English and maths activities will always be differentiated to meet the needs of all learners.

Some targeted groups will receive HFW practice and a levelled text to read.

Key end of year expectations

English: Read, write and spell all Year 5 high frequency words

Maths: Add and subtract whole numbers up to 4 digits including using formal written methods

Year 6 Homework Expectations

Reading expectations: Children expected to read independently but to have an adult at home checking what they are reading and signing the reading record.

How often: Every night

How long for: At least half an hour a night

Books should be changed weekly as a minimum; ideally they will read two books a week.

What homework	When is it set	When is it returned	How it will be checked
Spelling	Friday	Tuesday	In class test on learnt spellings.
Mathematics	Friday	Tuesday	Self-marked as part of lesson or acknowledged by teacher/TA.
English	Friday	Tuesday	Acknowledged by teacher/TA.
Occasional foundation subject work - research	As relevant to topic	Tuesday	Homework is shared during a feedback session in class and excellent work is celebrated.

For some targeted children there may be additional tasks for numeracy and literacy homework.

In the period running up to SATs, there may be additional revision homework for children.

Key end of year expectations

English: Read, write and spell all Year 6 high frequency words

Maths: Multiply and divide multi-digit numbers up to 4 digits by 2 digit numbers using formal written methods