

Broughton Community Schools

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## Home-Learning Policy

September 2023

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We regularly review the importance and effectiveness of home-learning (homework) to best suit the needs of our families and their children. This policy is based on robust research which demonstrates that home-learning has the most significant impact when:

- tasks are specific and focused on the learning taking place in school
- independent projects or activities prepare for future learning
- home-learning is monitored by teachers

In addition to this, research shows that home-learning can have the following non-academic benefits for children:

- Learning the importance of responsibility for learning
- Managing their time effectively
- Developing study habits
- Developing perseverance - working on a task until it is complete

Our policy reflects this research and enables the children to focus on fewer elements at a deeper level. Areas of home-learning include:

1. Reading
2. Spelling
3. Times tables
4. Out of school learning projects

### 1. Reading

We expect all pupils from Early Years to Year 6 to read 5 times a week for at least 10 minutes to an adult where possible. This can include a levelled book from school, a shared story, comic, newspaper, online book, etc. Any evidence of your child reading should be recorded in Reading Records.

We also expect parents to record daily reading in their child's reading record, which should be brought to school regularly to be monitored, as directed by the class teacher. Year 5 and 6 children may well be at the stage where they can record their own comment in their reading records but would need an adult to sign it off for them.

We also have a subscription for Reading Eggs that the children can access from home using their own individual log in. They can access this from a laptop, computer or tablet. This is monitored regularly by the class teacher.

### 2. Spelling

EYFS and Year 1:

Children in Year 1 will be given home-learning that is closely linked to phonics home-learning first. Towards the end of Year 1, they may start to bring home spellings as they move onto Spelling Shed.

Year 2 - Year 6

Class teachers will provide children with weekly spelling activities through the online platform; Spelling Shed. These spellings will be linked to the weekly focus from the curriculum spelling requirements for each year group or key topic words relating to the curriculum. A paper copy of the spellings can also be requested from the class teacher.

The children will do a weekly test but teachers will also monitor their progress 'at the point of writing' in their English and ILP books.

### 3. Maths - Times Tables

We expect all children in Years 2 to 6 to practice their times tables for ten minutes every day. This can include chanting, singing, copying out and practicing on online games and apps. We have an online subscription to Times Tables Rock Stars and your child will have received a login for this that they can use on a tablet, computer or laptop at home. In Early Years, Year 1 and 2 we have a subscription to Mathseeds which children can access and should practice at least 5 times per week. On occasions we may invite some children from Year 1 to join in with Times Tables Rock Stars.

Which times tables?

Year 2	Recall and use multiplication and division facts for the 2, 5 and 10 multiplication tables, including recognising odd and even numbers.
Year 3	3, 4 and 8 times tables up to $12 \times 3$ , 4 and 8 and division facts (e.g. $24 \div 4 = 6$ )
Year 4	6, 7 and 9 times tables up to $12 \times 6$ , 7 and 9 and division facts (e.g. $30 \div 6 = 5$ )
Year 5	Practise all times tables and division facts up to $12 \times 12$
Year 6	Practise all times tables and division facts up to $12 \times 12$

### 4. Out of School Learning Projects

At Broughton Community Schools we recognise the importance of talk and vocabulary development from an early age. Research shows that daily conversation with family, together with rich experiences outside of school, helps a child's holistic development.

Our Out of School Learning Projects therefore suggest a variety of activities to encourage conversation, shared experiences and opportunities to enhance the children's learning outside of school through a range of activities linked to their topic. For example, ideas may include:

- Taking advantage of the huge range of free entry museums, galleries and public spaces in Aylesbury, Bucks, London and other surrounding areas
- Children being involved in sporting clubs, scouting or guiding
- Children learning an instrument or singing in a choir
- Travelling to interesting places, for example the seaside, the countryside or other cities

Each half term children from the junior school will receive a *Topic Letter* which will include a 'menu' of Out of School Learning Projects to complete if they wish. Children from the infant school will receive a class newsletter each half term with a suggested out of school learning project. These activities will help parents to prepare their children for the future learning of the Topic and families can decide how many or how few to complete. We have always prided ourselves on the exceptional project works that children have produced in the past and the impact these have as prior learning linked to their topic.

Date reviewed September 2023

Reviewed by E Rackham

Next review date September 2025