



Brookland Infant and Nursery School
Home Learning Policy

Staff: May 2024
Governors: May 2024

Rationale

At Brookland Infant and Nursery School we are very committed to building strong home/school links. We believe that parents and carers play a crucial role in helping their children to learn.

To ensure children learn and achieve their full potential the school is committed to working together with parents and carers in an atmosphere of mutual understanding, trust and support. This is developed through the provision of activities for children and families to work on collaboratively at home (home learning).

Aims

In providing home learning activities we aim to:

- Promote partnership with parents and carers by ensuring they are informed about the areas of children's learning and providing suggestions for supporting their children at home
- Extend and enrich the curriculum presented at school
- Consolidate and reinforce the understanding, knowledge and skills learnt at school, ensuring all children are motivated and extended in their learning
- Ensure children and their families have the opportunity to talk about what they have learned and anticipate what they might learn next
- Encourage children to develop positive attitudes towards learning and regard learning as a lifelong process
- Ensure progression towards independence and individual responsibility preparing Year 2 learners for Junior transfer

Objectives

By providing home learning activities we want to:

- Encourage children and their families to listen, talk about and record their experiences in purposeful contexts
- Develop a love of books and reading, regard reading and all aspects of English as an integral part of their lives
- Develop positive attitudes towards mathematics and regard mathematics as fundamental to their lives
- Help children develop a global perspective, beyond their immediate environment
- Ensure all children experience success, seeing themselves as successful learners

Role of the Governing Body

The Governing Body:

- Delegated powers and responsibilities to the curriculum committee and to the Headteacher to oversee the development of this policy
- Responsibility for the effective implementation, monitoring and evaluation of this policy

Role of the Headteacher

The Headteacher will:

- Promote this policy by raising its status and importance
- Ensure that home learning is built into teachers planning
- Provide supportive guidance for parents
- Keep up to date with new developments with regards to home learning
- Monitor and evaluate this policy

Role of the teachers

Teachers must:

- Integrate home learning into their planning
- Set interesting tasks and activities
- Set home learning appropriate for each child
- Explain when, what and how the work is done so that each child clearly understands
- Provide opportunities for sharing of home learning tasks in class and provide feedback

Role of the parents/carers

Parents/ carers are asked to:

- Support the home learning set
- Read with their child and make a note in the reading diary record.
- Support the school in explaining to children that home learning is valued and aids learning.
- Encourage pupils and praise them when home learning is completed.
- Be actively involved in the home learning of their child.
- Make the experience pleasurable
- Discuss, encourage and praise
- Contact the class teacher/ school if you are not sure of some aspect of the home learning or their child is experiencing difficulty doing it
- Contribute to the school parent questionnaires so the school can monitor the effectiveness

General

In the Foundation Stage weekly newsletters introduce the topics that the children will be learning about during the following week.

In Key Stage 1 curriculum overviews are issued to families each half term describing the main themes to be covered in school. The overviews will inform parents and carers with what is being covered in school and therefore how they can support their child at home. Parents/carers are provided with letter formation guidelines when their child starts school and are encouraged to use this to support their child when attempting written activities at home.

Reading

We believe reading is a key aspect of developing a child's learning. We value parents and carers reading with and to their children because it allows them to enjoy texts they might not be able to read alone, therefore improving many key skills which enable a child to access the wider curriculum.

It is expected that children spend 10 minutes each night reading with a member of their family/carers. Reading materials can be books borrowed from the school, obtained from the local library or from the child's own collection.

Children are given a book home each week from the school's home reading scheme. The teacher uses their assessment of the children to inform their guidance of the child when choosing their reading book. The choice is made in order to support skills practised during reading practice sessions in school and is appropriate to the child's stage of reading development. Suggestions as to how the family can support the child with the book are written in the child's reading diary. Families should comment on the book in the diary. The reading book is returned weekly in the book bag.

All children are encouraged to take home a library book once a week. The library book is chosen by the child and may be a favourite, familiar book that can be read independently or a more challenging book to share, read and talk about. The library book is returned weekly in the book bag.

Implementation

Nursery and Reception:

In Foundation Stage weekly newsletters are sent out with suggested activities for parents and carers to do at home with their child to support the topic the children will be learning about in school the following week. In reception they will also receive a "Little Wandle -Reception Phonics Home Learning" Letter, which sets out what the children have been doing at school that week and how parents/carers can support at home. Reading books and library books will be sent home weekly.

Year 1 and Year 2:

There will be a half termly home learning activities sent home every half term. This enables the parents and carers to have more freedom to choose how much home work they would like to do with their children. On the home learning sheet there will be 3 activity boxes. One box will be English, one box will Maths and one box will be Topic. There will be set out how many from each box the children are expected to complete as a minimum, but children are free to do more if they want to. The children will have a home learning book where they can record directly into their book or stick in all the home learning activities they have done. This might mean recorded work by the children, but it could also be photos or drawings if that is what an activity requires. When returned to class the staff will look at the home learning books and acknowledge their work with a stamp or shared with the class if appropriate. Maths home learning activities will be set weekly via MyMaths, which is an online, interactive teaching and home learning maths programme. Reading books and library books will be sent home weekly. In Year 2 children are also set spelling activities weekly via Spelling Shed, which is an interactive online programme supporting the children with their spelling, vocabulary and language structure knowledge.

This policy is reviewed annually by the Headteacher and every 4 years by the Governing body