

**BANKIER PRIMARY SCHOOL
HOMEWORK POLICY
JANUARY Updated November 2010**

‘Homework is not an optional extra, but an essential part of good education.’ (The White Paper: Excellence in Schools, 1997)

RATIONALE

Homework is seen as invaluable contact with home providing an opportunity for parents to be involved in their children’s learning. It provides a setting for parent and child to share purposeful learning opportunities in the supportive atmosphere of the home. It can therefore become a vehicle for developing and enhancing partnership and raising pupil attainment. Other important reasons for undertaking homework are given below.

AIMS

Our aims are encapsulated under the headings below.

WHAT IS HOMEWORK?

Homework is learning which:

- Deepens knowledge
- Is relevant to teachers’ curricular objectives
- Takes place out with formal classroom teaching
- Is primarily the responsibility of the learner
- Encourages the child to use his / her own initiative
- Offers opportunities for pupils to reinforce and practise skills they have learned in class and to develop positive study habits
- Offers opportunities for revision and preparation for assessment
- Can extend learning through research
- Helps children to see education in a wider context
- Develops work habits that will serve them well at secondary school and through their working lives
- Develops good home / school partnerships and to enable parents to see the kind of work undertaken during the school day

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF HOMEWORK?

We recognise several purposes of homework. Among these are:

- Allowing practice and consolidation of class work
- Providing opportunities for individual work
- Training for pupils in planning and organising time
- Developing good habits and self-discipline
- Encouraging ownership and responsibility for learning
- Providing information for parents
- Providing opportunities for parental co-operation and support
- Creating channels for home / school dialogue

WHAT IS THE VALUE OF HOMEWORK?

Pupils are most likely to value homework when:

- It is related to class work
- It is well explained and with clear purpose
- They are given notice and have adequate time to do it

**BANKIER PRIMARY SCHOOL
HOMEWORK POLICY
JANUARY Updated November 2010**

- It is interesting and varied
- It is likely to promote confidence through success
- It is challenging but not too difficult
- It is recognised and rewarded

WHAT TASKS MAY BE GIVEN AS HOMEWORK?

PRIMARY 1

- Sounds from Jolly Phonics - sound book and sound sheet
- Wordlists
- Reading
- Spelling
- Preparation for show and tell
- Number bonds
- Revision for Friday tests
- Story sacks

PRIMARY 2

- Sounds from Jolly Phonics - sound book and sound sheet
- Wordlists
- Reading
- Spelling
- Sentences
- Preparation for show and tell
- Number bonds
- Revision for Friday tests

PRIMARY 3

- Reading (card and worksheets)
- Heinemann Homelink
- Spelling – sentences, worksheets
- Preparation for class talks
- Tables
- Number facts / stories
- Topic work as it arises
- Revision for Friday tests

PRIMARY 4

- Reading (card and worksheets)
- Heinemann Homelink
- Spelling – sentences, worksheets
- Preparation for class talks
- Tables
- Number facts / stories
- Topic work as it arises
- Recorder
- Revision for Friday tests

**BANKIER PRIMARY SCHOOL
HOMEWORK POLICY
JANUARY Updated November 2010**

PRIMARY 5

- Reading
- Heinemann Homelink
- Spelling - worksheets
- Topic work as it arises
- Preparation for class talks
- Personal Projects
- Recorder
- Revision for Friday tests

PRIMARY 6

- Reading
- Heinemann Homelink
- Spelling - worksheets
- Topic work as it arises
- Preparation for class talks
- French
- Personal Projects
- Recorder
- Revision for Friday tests

PRIMARY P7

- Reading
- Heinemann Homelink
- Spelling - worksheets
- Topic work as it arises
- Preparation for class talks
- French
- Personal Projects
- Recorder
- Revision for Friday tests

SHARED WRITING, MATHS, TALKING & LISTENING

Your child will bring home a shared activity from school to be completed with the help and support of someone at home, once per term. This may be a parent, carer, grandparent, older brother or sister.

NB – Not all homework will be given every week – teachers will notify frequency of set tasks. Some work especially in the early stages will not start until the second and third term. Homework is set at the teacher's discretion.

In Bankier Primary School we try to encourage our pupils to assume responsibility for the organisation of their own work. In the early years pupils are likely to be given short tasks such as new sounds / words to learn and reading practice several times a week. In the middle and upper years pupils are given tasks at the beginning of the week to be completed by a set date.

**BANKIER PRIMARY SCHOOL
HOMEWORK POLICY
JANUARY Updated November 2010**

From time to time older pupils may be asked to work on a personal topic as part of homework.

TEACHER'S ROLE

- Set tasks which are varied, interesting and challenging, and appropriate to children's ability and class work.
- Ensure children understand what is required
- Check and or mark homework – using peer correction where this is feasible and appropriate
- Provide feedback to pupils to show their work is valued
- Try to find reasons for pupil's non-completion of homework tasks through discussion with pupil and parent

PUPIL'S ROLE

- Take work home and return to school as required
- Pupils should ensure that all materials for completion are taken home
- Organise time to ensure tasks can be completed by the required date
- Complete tasks set with as much effort and standard of presentation as class work
- Pupils should inform the teacher at the earliest point if encountering problems
- Pupils should ensure that parents see and sign their homework

PARENT'S ROLE

- Help the child find a suitable place and time to complete tasks
- Support child with tasks but do not do it for them
- Offer encouragement at all times
- Sign work when completed
- Contact school if concerns arise

Homework can play an important role in promoting pupil attainment but can only be successful if it is regarded as a partnership between home and school. Our policy seeks the co-operation of all parties – pupil, parent and teacher – in accepting and carrying out this policy.

Full use should be made of the homework jotter to record praise for your child's work and to communicate with the teacher in a joint effort on your child's behalf. Where any concerns arise, parents are urged to contact the school to arrange an appointment to meet with the class teacher or a member of the promoted staff. Every endeavour will be made to make arrangements for an appointment as soon as possible. To enable concerns to be tackled speedily.

HELPFUL SUGGESTIONS FOR PARENTS

- Parents reading to and with their children and discussing the reading materials
- Parents listening to their child read the text of the reading book
- Parents and children watching TV / listening to the radio for a purpose and discussing the programmes content

**BANKIER PRIMARY SCHOOL
HOMEWORK POLICY
JANUARY Updated November 2010**

- Parents and children working on developing resource skills e.g. visiting the library or using the internet to gather information on the class topic
- Parents and children working together on practicing number bonds / facts and spelling
- Parents and children visiting places of interest together
- When appropriate the Homework jotter should give additional guidance regarding homework tasks. When appropriate, methodology notes will be sent home for further guidance.

RESOURCING

It will be necessary for pupils to take home books, jotters, worksheets etc. to complete a task. Parents should be aware that pupils are expected to return these materials to the school in good condition. Parents will be required to pay for any lost or damaged resources loaned to their child

**BANKIER PRIMARY SCHOOL
HOMEWORK POLICY
JANUARY Updated November 2010**



HOMEWORK AGREEMENT

In order to maintain standards within our school, we request that parents sign this homework agreement to encourage their child(ren) to undertake and complete tasks set by the class teacher and to be aware of when homework is set

I will cooperate with the school to ensure that my child will:

1. work to the best of his / her ability
2. complete homework on time
3. use his / her study time effectively
4. participate in learning tasks as requested by the class teacher

I will cooperate with the school to ensure that I, as a parent / guardian / carer will:

1. be aware of when homework is set and when it has to be returned
2. sign and date homework
3. encourage and support my child with his / her homework
4. give help if needed, but will not put pressure on my child
5. praise child for all his / her efforts

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Parent / guardian / carer of : _____