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Dear parents & carers,

Homework is changing at Bushmead Primary School. Homework is always a topical issue in schools across the country. Some parents want more homework, some want less. Some parents want creative homework and some want a list of calculations or tasks. As you can see, homework is hard to get right for every family.

At Bushmead, we have streamlined homework and reflected on what the children need and what is the minimum that every child at Bushmead should be completing. Homework is a link between school and home. Children only retain about half of what they are taught the first time, they need to apply that information and practice to truly learn. Whilst we revisit learning in school using retrieval strategies to support learning, additional practice at home is beneficial. Homework also allows parents and carers to be involved with their children's learning.

Why is homework important?

Promotes self-discipline	Enhances concentration	Improves thinking skills	Increases memory power
Prepares children for the next phase of education	Creates a bridge between learning at school and home	Develops independent learning strategies	

Bushmead has decided on three key areas for homework

1) READING

This is by far the most important aspect of homework in primary school. Reading is the key to life. We complete hours of reading activities and tasks in school, however children need to be reading at home too. In an ideal world, we would love all children in the school to read with an adult every single day and we know this happens in some households. In others, we know this isn't feasible due to commitments elsewhere. So we ask for a minimum of three times a week.

What does this look like and what counts?

- ★ Reading to a child with the child following in the book
- ★ Taking a line or a paragraph each as you read a few pages
- ★ Reading together at the same time (tricky but fun!)
- ★ The child reading and the adult listening.

For the oldest children,

- ★ Reading alone and explaining what they have read
- ★ Reading alone

All activities, even the 'reading alone' ones, will need an adult signature in their reading record for it to count!



2) Spellings or Phonics

Children will receive words or sounds (phonemes) each week and a linked activity. These may be based around a letter pattern or sound and will be shared via google classroom or Class Dojo. We expect the children to read, explore and learn these words. Adult support when tackling new or harder words would be appreciated. These words will not be tested weekly. However, some quizzing and/or dictation may take place at various times during the year to check application and retention. Teachers will check that the homework is being completed and learnt each week. Correct use of the words in the wider curriculum is the best way to apply this learning, teachers will be looking out for this.

3) Maths

In years 1 - 6, children will receive a MyMaths task every week to be completed. This will need to be completed online each week. Each task has a teaching aspect linked to the task, this can help if your child is struggling with the task. The task will always be something the children have been taught. Your child will be given their MyMaths sign on details this week. In Foundation Stage, children will have a task related to Maths shared on Class Dojo.

Homework will be given on a Friday and will be expected to be completed by the following Friday. Starting the 13th January. Staff will be checking that each of these homework tasks are completed each week. If homework is not completed - a variety of sanctions may be given. These could include personal time to complete the homework during the school day, extensions to support completion of homework, loss of part of break etc. These sanctions will depend on the frequency and reason behind the lack of completion.

If completing work online is an issue or your child is having trouble accessing or completing the homework, please speak to your child's class teacher.

Some of you will be happy with these changes to homework. Others will want more for your children. This is all the children will receive from school. However, there are many other opportunities where you can complete optional work with your children or explore learning in other ways.

Our curriculum map is found on our website here: [Bushmead Curriculum Framework](#)

This is a great starting point if you wish to explore extra learning opportunities in addition to the school homework set. Year Group newsletters also give information related to that half term's learning.

Kind regards,

The Bushmead Team

