



Dear Parents and Carers

Hello again everyone – week 2 of the Autumn term is almost at a close. There is a great buzz around the school and all the children are displaying great attitudes.

Homework.

We at Burrough Green see homework as nothing more than an opportunity.

Teachers have spent time this term reviewing our homework policy and making sure it was fit for purpose.

I must stress that homework is an opportunity, not a rule. If days are stressful, homework should not be adding to your household's worries. No one will get into trouble for not doing it once in a while. Of course, we believe the children benefit from homework or we wouldn't set it.

Below is part of our home school learning document. You will notice that the timings on the 'grid' have hardly changed from last year

HOME/SCHOOL LEARNING DOCUMENT 2024/25

At Burrough Green C of E Primary School we believe that education is a life-long process. A child's education does not cease when your child leaves our school premises, learning at home is an essential part of good education.

We see the purpose of homework as being to:

- *Develop an effective partnership between school and parents for each child's education, as children achieve more when teachers and parents work together*
- *Consolidate/reinforce key skills and understanding, particularly in English and Mathematics*
- *Extend school learning*
- *Develop confidence, independence and the self-discipline needed for personal study in preparation for secondary school and beyond*
- *Provide opportunities for parents and children to work together to enjoy learning experiences*

*For the Early Years simple games, learning spellings, and of course, reading with parents provides valuable **opportunities** for the practice/reinforcement of key skills in a supportive environment. As children get older they need to develop the habit of regularly devoting short periods of time to personal study. All children are **given the opportunity** to take part in a variety of homework tasks to enhance and support their work in class.*

This homework policy is designed:

- *To ensure consistency of approach throughout the school*
- *To ensure progression towards independence and individual responsibility*

- To ensure parents/carers have a clear understanding about expectations for themselves and the pupils.
- To extend and support learning
- To provide **opportunities** for parents and pupils to work in partnership and enjoy learning experiences

The emphasis of homework activities is on the development of skills of English and mathematics. From time to time children may bring home a piece of work they have missed through absence, or for further reinforcement. Other activities are added as children move up the school. Regular reading is vital in all year groups.

It is our policy to set homework as follows:

Year Group	Approximate Time allocation	Example Activities
EYFS	5-10 minutes a day, or as often as you can – aim for at least 4 days.	Reading to parents. Maths, eg counting (practical and recording), Key Instant Recall Facts Other activities directed by the teacher Early phonics reinforcement work
Year 1	10 minutes a day, or as often as you can – aim for at least 4 days.	Reading to parents Spellings / Early phonics reinforcement. Maths linked to classroom learning and specifically targeted maths as appropriate to individual children, Key Instant Recall Facts Topic research as appropriate
Year 2/3	Year 2 15 minutes a day, or as often as you can – aim for at least 4 days a week Year 3 20 minutes a day, or as often as you can – aim for at least 3 days a week	Daily reading to parents and/or independent reading – we encourage reading for pleasure (reading should not be an onerous task) Spellings Tables / Number facts practice / Key Instant Recall Facts Maths linked to classroom learning and specifically targeted maths as appropriate to individual children Topic research as appropriate
Year 4/5	Year 4 and 5 1 hour a week – this can be 1 long piece of homework or smaller pieces	Regular reading– we encourage reading for pleasure (reading should not be an onerous task) Regular curriculum homework tasks each week Maths linked to classroom learning and specifically targeted maths as appropriate to individual children. Key Instant Recall Facts Spellings/Grammar Topic research as appropriate
Year 6	Year 6 1 – 1.5 hours a week – this can be 1 long	Regular reading or comprehensions– we encourage reading for pleasure (reading should not be an onerous task).

	<i>piece of homework or smaller pieces</i>	<i>Maths linked to classroom learning and specifically targeted maths as appropriate to individual children. Key Instant Recall Facts Spellings/Grammar Topic research as appropriate</i>
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All timings are approximate.

Reading to be logged in the child's reading record.

Please note: Homework tasks will vary as to the needs of the individual class and the individual child. For example you would expect a Year 6 child approaching their SATs to do more.

Some homework may be adapted so children can access it at home

How staff at Burrough Green support this policy:

- By providing a range of homework tasks and activities.*
- By ensuring that the children have a clear understanding of the tasks involved and a common understanding of the high expectations held of them individually, according to their ability*
- By communicating with parents and keeping them informed of children's progress, projects and topics studied in class and their children's individual tasks.*

How parents /carers can help to support their children:

- Provide somewhere peaceful for children to work without the distractions of television, mobile devices, other family members and pets*
- Provide a suitable place equipped with a clear table space, chair and good light*
- Provide encouragement and support to children when they require it*
- Support the school in explaining and valuing homework*
- Encourage pupils and praise them when homework completed*
- Be actively involved in the homework (particularly of younger children)*
- Share with school any issues arising from homework for example by a comment in a reading record/class dojo. We are always interested in hearing how well the children completed other activities, whether they were interesting / too easy / too hard, etc*

Children have the opportunity to:

- Tackle home tasks with a positive attitude*
- Take pride in their presentation and content, acknowledging the high personal standard expected*
- Be organised to look after and return books and any completed tasks on the agreed dates.*

Feedback for pupils/parents or carers and teachers

Feedback needs to be given promptly and may be given in a variety of ways:

- Verbal response from parents or carers and teachers*
- Class discussion*
- Tests eg. spellings or tables*
- Pupil/peer evaluation*

- *Teacher marking*
- *Presentation of work in class and/or school assembly*

Teachers can always be asked about homework if it is tricky and if it causes problems and undue stress either leave it for a day or two and then come back to it or speak to your child's teacher.

Homework will never be fresh learning – your child will have covered any work given in class. Firstly, this is done to promote independence and allow the pupil to structure their own time (especially the older children) and secondly to allow the child to lead on the activity.

I hope this helps with homework management.

Published Authors

Wonderful news – seven of our students have managed to get their writing published in a real book. This started out as a home learning opportunity. Many of the successful children have a copy of the book and there is a copy in the school library.

Last Friday, I read out every story that had been published – the children looked so proud of their achievements. This week Teresa Class will get another opportunity to achieve this – this time by writing poetry! Writing is a priority this year at Burrough Green. We are less than 2 weeks in and we have 7 published authors in the school! Incredible.

Please see a photograph below of our amazing authors and Mrs Chubb, their inspiration.



Jeans for Genes

Next Friday children will be able to wear jeans to school for a £1 donation. Money raised will go to the Jeans for Genes charity.

Please find out more about this using the link below

<https://www.jeansforgenes.org/>

Trips

Einstein and Teresa Class will have received letters about 2 history trips we are running in October. Unfortunately (unlike most of our trips this year which will be whole school trips) this one needs to be by class due to the different history topics being studied.

As you can see from the letters, buses are so expensive (I included the cost in the letters). A bus to West Stow alone costs £440 – this is almost £20 a child just to get there. There is very little we can do about this expense (the £440 was the cheapest of 3 quotes would you believe!). I remain a firm believer that school trips enrich children immeasurably – feeding their ‘cultural capital’ is so important – if you look back to newsletters from last autumn I mention Cultural Capital many times. Unfortunately we may need to cancel trips if we cannot meet costs as the school is not in a position to subsidise expenses.

Internet User Agreement

Attached to this newsletter is an Internet User Agreement for you all to read. Children will be bringing a hard copy home to sign. This is an important part of our Online Safety drive and would appreciate a swift response from you all.

Diary Dates

Mrs Brewin has organised a list of dates and this was sent out on Monday. (Please note that Einstein Class Assembly is Friday 18th October.) Please make sure you check our [school calendar](#) to stay up-to-date with information about future events, term dates, training days etc

That’s all from me.

This edition is massive, but I wanted to make sure you had an accessible copy of our homework intentions to hand.

Have great weekend

David Sandford

To see what’s been happening at BGPA, please visit our [website](#) and our Twitter feed.

Music Lessons

Mrs Dunton has a few spaces for pupils to learn to play Flute, recorder and piano at school. Children from Year 1 and above can have a free trial/consultation lesson to see if they would like to learn to play an instrument.

The spaces are limited, but please email office@burroughgreen.cambs.sch.uk if you would like to register your interest.



Next Week's Menu

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Main Meal	Homemade Chicken Nuggets (G)(MK)(E)	Pizza - Pepperoni (G)(MK)	Homemade meatballs with pasta and tomato sauce (G)	Roast Chicken with Yorkshire Pudding (G)(E)(MK)	Fish Fingers (G)(F)
Meat Free	Vegetable Risotto	Pizza – Margarita (G)(MK)	Omelette (G)(E)	Pasta in tomato sauce (G)	Chow Mein (G)(SO)
Side dish	Homemade Potato Wedges, carrots, Peas	Sweetcorn, Beans	Sweetcorn, Carrots	Roast Potatoes, Carrots, Broccoli	Chips (G), Beans, Peas
Jacket Potato	Jacket Potato with tuna mayo (F)(E)	Jacket Potato with Choice of toppings, beans, beans & cheese (MK), cheese (MK)	Jacket Potato with Choice of toppings, beans, beans & cheese (MK), cheese (MK)	Jacket Potato with tuna mayo (F)(E)	Jacket Potato with Choice of toppings, beans, beans & cheese (MK), cheese (MK)
Cold Option	Cheese Bread Roll (G)(MK)	BLT Bread Roll (G)(MK)	Egg mayo Bread Roll (G)(E)	Cheese Bread Roll (G)(MK)	Sausage Baguette (G)(MK)
Dessert	Fruit Muffin (G)(E),(MK) Fruit, yogurt (MK)	Swiss Roll (G)(E) Fruit, yogurt (MK)	Chocolate chip cookies (G)(SO)(E)(MK) Fruit or Yogurt (MK)	Ice Cream (MK) Fruit, yogurt (MK)	Banoffee Pie (G)(MK)(SO) Fruit, yogurt (MK)
All Jacket Potatoes and Bread Rolls have a side salad. A slice of baguette is available to accompany the main meal.					

L:Allergen Key: Dairy (C), Cereals (G), Crustaceans (CR), Egg (E), Fish (F), Gluten (GL), Milk (MK), Nuts (N), Mustard (MU), Peanuts (P), Sesame Seeds (SE), Soya (SO), Sulphur Dioxide/Sulphites (SD)

Click [here](#) to book your child into wrap-around care – Larks and Owls

Don't forget to use the "Easy Fundraising" and "My School Fund" when you are doing your shopping!



Easyfundraising.org – There are lots of retailers and service providers on the list, businesses you normally shop with anyway. Even if you log into your favourite retailer through the app half way through, it saves your basket, so you don't have to do anything different. Try it, it really does make a difference <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk>



My School Fund

In association with Argos and Sainsbury's, we have a new way to fundraise for the school when you are shopping. Every time you make a purchase, both you and BG benefit with cashback. A flyer is attached to this email. Click on the link to register as an individual and link your account to the school. <https://www.myschoolfund.org/#/>

Amazon Wish Lists

A big thank you to parents who have brought items from the wish lists, it is very much appreciated that you are supporting the school. You can find our wish lists here:

Class 1: https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/3NPNW0VXC5B5L/ref=cm_go_nav_hz

Class 2: https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/1G7U68RHVFQ87?ref_=wl_share

Class 3: https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/DT99H5C97OM9?ref_=wl_share