



Barwell C of E Academy Homework 2017-2018

We want happy, confident, successful children.

We want all children, regardless of their individual circumstances, to be **happy, confident** and **successful**. Working with **parents** on children's individual learning journeys is vital in developing their **academic** and **values** character. Links between home and school is an essential part of valuing the contribution of everyone connected with our school and to keep an open communication is critical for success. **Working together** as a true team will help develop flourishing **happy** children who are **confident** about challenges that they face and allow them to be **successful**.

Our ambitious target for homework this academic year is: 90% of children will regularly complete homework

Aims and objectives:

There are lots of opinions regarding the usefulness of homework for primary aged children. Some contend that children should not receive any whilst others believe this is a very effective approach for raising standards. After consulting parents and staff, we believe that homework does have a real value in supporting our children on their learning journey and also see the additional benefits of families working together and having an understanding of the expectations for children in each year group. We are however mindful of how families are organised and want our children to lead full and interesting lives outside of school to develop skills in clubs and other activities. With this in mind, we wanted to find a balance of regular homework that would challenge and support families whilst at the same time, not being too onerous as to become a battle within the home.

Key skill development:

We believe that regular practice at key areas of English and Maths targeted at Age Related Expectations (ARE) will really benefit our children. Children will be provided with Spellings, Reading, Times Tables, Reading comprehension/Spelling Punctuation and Grammar work and Maths challenges every two weeks in a format that will be the same in every year group. The giving out and collecting in of homework will be uniform throughout the school so that parents are clear on deadlines.

Communication:

We believe that communication between home and school is vital so in our homework books we provide space every two weeks for home and school to comment on children's progress and keep a consistent conversation. Parents will also be able to see how well their children have done in each set of homework.

Quests:

In addition to targeting the key skills, it is important that children have chance to complete work outside of school that interests them and challenges their thinking and their creativity. To meet this goal, we have half termly Quests given to children with a half term to complete. These Quests are open ended to allow children, and families, to be creative in how they tackle them. It is hoped that families will use this as quality time learning together. To showcase these quests, and to keep families engaged with school, we will open up to display Quests every half term.

Going the Extra Mile:

For children and families who are up for that additional challenge, we offer Barwell Extra. This is a series of rewards for children that get progressively harder which allow children to face challenges that are above and beyond what is expected in the National Curriculum. The challenges have been designed in many different areas, from academic skills to more artistic ones. Barwell Extra awards are all detailed on our website and within classes for those children who do not have Internet access. Barwell Extra awards are celebrated in our Character Commendation Assemblies.

Individualising:

Our homework is based very clearly on ARE for each year group and teachers plan activities that help children to achieve ARE or above. Whilst we believe that we must have the very highest expectations for all of our children, there are a small number of children with a Special Educational Need that prevents them from accessing ARE and teachers will plan for this accordingly. These children's homework will be in the same format as all other children (unless they require specific resources to enable them to access materials) but will be tailored to their individual needs.

Incomplete homework:

As detailed above, if homework is integral to helping children succeed, we must try to engage all children with this activity so they are not disadvantaged. However, we are also mindful that different children will receive differing amounts of support and having a 'one size fits all' mentality to tackling non-compliance could be detrimental to some children. We also acknowledge that pressures within the home and society are complex issues that affect families' abilities to support children at home. It is however our duty to try to achieve the very best outcomes for every child so we endeavour to do as much as possible to support children. We have a clear system when homework is not completed:

- First time not completed: a standard text is sent out and additional sheets are given if Homework books have not been returned
- Second time not completed: a phone call is made home to alert families of the concern and additional sheets are given if Homework books have not been returned
- Third time not completed: a concern form is completed and the child is referred to our Family Link Worker who will decide on the best course of action based on the individual child's circumstances

Record keeping:

Individual class teachers will keep records for their class on rates of completion of homework and will report to the SLT each term on percentages of completion. Analysis will be completed looking at groups of children at the end of each term and strategies put in place to ensure our ambitious target is reached.

Additional Documents:

Homework Books
Home School Agreement
Tracking of homework completion