

ST BERNADETTE'S HOMEWORK POLICY

Our Mission

Learn to Love: Love to Learn

At St. Bernadette's Catholic School you will find us caring, hardworking and co-operative. We follow the ways of Jesus using our talents and gifts to make our school special. We show respect to all and welcome you

Rational

At St. Bernadette's homework is given to all children. It aims to:

- bridge the gap between home and school, allowing parents direct involvement in their child's learning,
- encourage self discipline and personal organisation
- provide an opportunity for children to reinforce or extend the learning which has taken place in class.

The nature of homework

Homework will:

- Be set for clearly defined purposes, not for its own sake.
- Vary in its nature and will not always be of a formal pencil and paper style.
- May include extension of work begun in class, additional research, reading, learning of tables and spellings, investigations or collecting of information.
- Occasionally be set for new work which has not been introduced in class.
- Be followed up in class and made clear to children that tasks are not optional.

Frequency of homework

The frequency and length of tasks will vary according to the age and needs of the child. A prolonged absence from school may warrant additional homework though homework will not normally be set because a child is being taken out of school for a family holiday. Children and parents are notified of their homework timetable at the beginning of the school year. This is reinforced at the welcome meetings which are timetabled in September. The table below sets out a general guide for the quantity of homework given to each year band. **All children should read every night.** An RE prayer bag will be sent home on a rota basis (one bag for one child in each class) throughout the year.

NURSERY	Take home toy (each night a different child in the group will take this home), Take home book (each week each child takes one book to share with parents), RE/ Prayer bag (taken home once a week)
RECEPTION	Word wall (words build up throughout the year), Common Exception Words, Reading, English & Mathematics - each once a week.
KEY STAGE 1	Reading each night, practising spellings each week and Mathematics and English every week (approx. 1 hour per week)
YEAR 3 and 4	English and Mathematics each once a week (approx. 1.5 hours per week). Spellings tested every two weeks and should be learnt on a daily basis.
YEAR 5 and 6	English and Mathematics each once a week (approx. 2 hours per week). Spellings tested every two weeks and should be learnt on a daily basis.

Incomplete homework

Children should be encouraged to get into a routine for homework. All homework should be signed and dated by parents. The children in Key Stage 2 will be encouraged to use a homework diary to aid their personal organisation. Homework which is incomplete, or unsatisfactory will be sent home with a letter which should be signed by the parent and returned to school. **The completed homework should be returned to school but will remain unmarked.** Parents will be called in to school if the problem continues.

KS2 Homework Procedure

Class teachers will set a homework timetable in welcome meetings at the start of the academic year and distribute these to all parents

If a child fails to produce a piece of homework the teacher concerned will 'stripe' the relevant box in the child's communication diary. (Stripe is a highlighted mark – no writing needed.) Teachers should also keep their own record of non completed or late homework. Teachers will check that parents have signed the box with the stripe in to acknowledge that the homework is incomplete.

If 3 stripes occur then a letter to parents will be sent and will be recorded in diary as being sent. Parents to sign reply slip on letter.

If after the letter home, 2 more pieces of homework are missed then teachers are asked to raise the matter with the Deputy Head or Head Teacher. Parents will be contacted and the issue discussed.

As a reward, teachers can use incentives for children who have completed all of their homework. At the end of each week, children who have completed all of their homework will be rewarded with an early lunch break on a Friday at 12.00pm.

Policy Reviewed: 2015

Date:

Dear Parent:

Re: Homework.

At St. Bernadette's we set homework as we believe it:

- bridges the gap between home and school, allowing parents direct involvement in their child's learning,
- encourages self discipline and personal organisation
- provides an opportunity for children to reinforce or extend the learning which has taken place in class.

Your child has not completed homework this term on _____ occasions. Please refer to your child's communication diary where the missed homework pieces have been indicated.

This situation will continue to be monitored. It is vitally important that all homework is completed and handed in on time.

Yours sincerely,

Miss A Cowings
Headteacher

Child's name: _____ Child's class: _____

I have received a letter regarding my child's homework.

Signed: _____