

'A Caring Christian Family Where We Grow Together'

Bunbury Aldersey CE Primary School

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13th September 2023

Dear Parents /carers

On **Friday 15th September**, your child will be bringing home (years 1-6) their homework book for this academic year. Inside you will find a homework record sheet which staff will sign at the end of every half term.

There are always mixed views around homework particularly within primary education and as a school, we see homework as something which should be purposeful, positive, impact on learning and instil independent work within our children. Homework is no longer part of an Ofsted inspection and decisions as to policy are now left to individual schools/trusts to reflect what they consider to be age appropriate and relevant. Therefore, the tasks which we have set compliment what we are teaching in school and focus on the development of basic skills. As the work is set half termly, there is also a flexibility of approach for parents. Whatever the views on homework are, parents/carers can adopt a timetable which works for them to support the child with work outside of school without creating unnecessary pressure and creating a negative learning experience.

For parents who may wish a more structured and timetabled approach I have set out below a suggested plan for KS1 and KS2 which you may wish to follow. **Please note this is only a suggestion for those wanting a more structured approach.** DFE recommendations for timings are as follows and depend on the age and the type of work to be done. Spread over a few nights in short sharp sessions should keep the child's interest high rather than several hours in one night or leaving it to the last minute.

Years 1 and 2: one hour per week
Years 3 and 4: 1.5 hours per week
Years 5 and 6: 30 minutes per day

	KS1	KS2
Monday	Reading Spellings Year 2 – TT Rockstars	Reading Spelling My Maths Take away homework
Tuesday	Reading My Maths Take away homework	Reading Spelling TT Rock Stars
Wednesday	Reading Spellings Year 2 – TT Rockstars	Reading Spelling My Maths Take away homework
Thursday	Reading My Maths Take away homework	Reading Spelling TT Rock Stars
Friday / Weekend	Reading Spellings Year 2 – TT Rockstars	Reading Spelling My Maths TT Rockstars

At Bunbury School, we believe that homework isn't just some joyless pursuit of knowledge. It's an integral part of learning. Beyond the chance to practice and reinforce what they've learned in class, it's also an opportunity to develop independent study and application – and character traits like perseverance and self-motivation.



As always, all homework can be found on **your child's** class page on the website under the following tab for **their year group** at the top of the page – this will be live from **Friday 15th September**.

Homework Autumn 1

Year 4 2023 - 2024

Under this tab you will find:

- Homework task sheet for 'Autumn 1' which will specify: high frequency word spellings, times tables, and recommended reading.
- Takeaway homework
- Knowledge organiser for the current teaching theme
- '101 things to do before you are 11'.
- Plus, any further class documents individual teachers have added to support autumn term homework

Spellings:

This term your child will receive 2 lists of spellings to learn.

- **High frequency words:** these are Department for Education set expected words for each stage of learning set in the national curriculum. These words are tested at the end of KS2 in the SATs tests through the Spelling paper and within their written work. As all children will be expected to sit these tests in Year 6, we provide everyone with the same diet of words. Please note that teachers will be looking for the application of these words in their written work across the curriculum and they may not be formally tested.
- **5 - 10 spelling pattern words:** The children are streamed for spelling. The focus of these sessions will be to look at the spelling patterns within the English language. Groups will be based on the child's spelling ability. Each week the teacher for that group will set 5-10 spellings to learn from the pattern they are exploring. These will be tested weekly. Spellings will go home on a Monday and be tested the following Monday. Spellings can be rehearsed in homework books.

To aid with the learning of the high frequency word spellings, these have been listed on our 'Autumn 1' learning sheet and split into weeks. These will not be tested weekly but we will be looking for correct application of them within written work in all curriculum areas with intermittent assessment of pupils' knowledge of these high frequency words. They will also be found at the bottom of the weekly spelling sheets as a reminder.

All children learn differently and so therefore the homework journal should be used to suit the best learning style for your child when learning spellings. Some will like to repeatedly write out spellings and whilst others may like to use some of the ideas in the attached 'Helping your child with spelling' document.

Children also need to be fluent with their times tables and be able to recall them out of sequence at pace. On the homework sheet, we have listed the times tables and related division facts which are required to be learnt for that term. Again, please use the learning journal to document the rehearsal of these and also use TT Rock Stars to aid your child's learning of their times tables.

Reading daily is an important part of learning. It not only supports the teaching of reading but enables us to gather facts, information and vocabulary which we can then use in our writing and during our topic sessions. The books which have been recommended may either be classic children's literature or linked with the current learning in class, they can either be read alone by the child or shared with an adult.

Knowledge organisers complement our connected approach to our curriculum at Bunbury. Facts, information and vocabulary from the knowledge organiser will be used regularly during connected curriculum lessons. These have been developed by teachers to provide key facts, information and vocabulary which the children will be expected to learn and discuss within their topic sessions.

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My Maths (Years 1 – 6) will be set weekly and TT Rockstars will focus on times tables (Years 2 – 6) set by teaching staff through the term. These are both online programmes.

Take away homework and Knowledge organisers will be set in the first full week of **every half term** to compliment the learning theme in the classroom. Children are to choose 1 task from the Takeaway list **each half term** and complete to a high standard. Whilst we appreciate the support of parents in aiding with the completion of these tasks we do like to see a piece of work created by the child.

Take away homework will then be shared and celebrated in the final week of **each half term** around the school. **Some of the tasks set will require more work than others: therefore, I would suggest if you know that you have a particularly busy half term to choose a less labour intensive project.**

The Take Away celebration days for the autumn term are:

Wednesday 25th October 2023

Wednesday 18th December 2023

In an era when children's mental health and wellbeing is very much in the news and high on our school agenda the school council have produced the '101 things to do before you are 11' document. We strongly believe as a staff that alongside our basic skills homework children should be encouraged to take on board some of the tasks that have been selected.

Reception

We recognise that these children are still young and many will be tired at the end of the day and at weekends. We know that trying to get children to complete further work at this point can often lead to negative learning experiences. However, we recognise even at the early stages of learning that it is important for some learning at home routines to be established.

Therefore, homework for reception children will currently consist of:

- Daily reading
- Red words
- Maths sheets/learning videos - starting later this school year

Homework Journals need to be brought back into school week beginning **Monday 16th October** to enable staff time to look at them in preparation for parents evening. During this week, teachers will sign the sheet inside to see that homework has been completed and children will be praised for their efforts with stickers. A verbal comment will be made to all parents at parents evening that week as to the quality and frequency of homework completed.

Many thanks for your continued support

Nic Badger
School Principal
Executive Headteacher for RCSAT

