

'A Caring Christian Family Where We Grow Together'

Bunbury Aldersey CE Primary School

School Lane, Bunbury, CW6 9NR
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Executive Headteacher: Mrs Nicola Badger

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26th February 2024

Dear Parents /carers

On **Friday 1st March**, your child will be bringing home (years 1-6) their homework journal. Inside you will find a homework record sheet which staff will sign and add team points for consistency of completion, effort and good evidence of independent learning. This will be done at the end of every half term. As a partnership between home and school in our children's education these are skills we want to foster and develop in all our children in preparation for self-supported study later in their education.

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.** Up until 2012, the Department of Education recommended an hour of homework a week for primary school Key Stage 1 children (aged 4 to 7) and half an hour a day for primary school Key Stage 2 children (aged 7-11). Many schools still use this guidance which has not been updated.

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. However, the guidelines emphasise that it is more important that homework helps your child to embed learning than whether it takes a certain amount of time. The guidelines encourage schools to plan homework carefully alongside the work children do at school, and to make sure that all activities are appropriate for individual children.

	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



As 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. The DFE states that, "All homework activities should be related to work children are doing at school. However, homework should not always be written work. For very young children it will largely be: reading with parents or carers, informal games to practice mathematical skills, spellings."

As professionals, we believe that our approach to homework strikes a correct balance for learning outside of school. The homework given allows children to consolidate their learning, practise vital skills, try new challenges and discover more about the topics they are investigating. Active engagement by parents in short focused tasks such as: hearing your child read, practising multiplication tables and spellings, learning bonds to 10 etc, is likely to be more effective than regular daily homework.

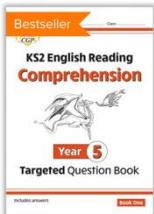
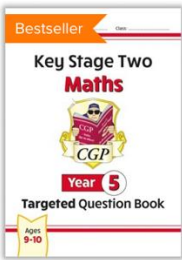
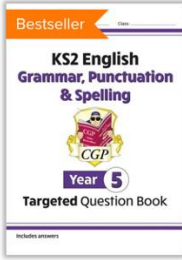
However, we are also aware that for some parents a more formal, book based approach is preferable. From Spring B 2024 we will be introducing CGP books into our homework partnership plan for those parents who wish, **in addition to the work in the Homework Journals**, further work in a more formal style set as a weekly task to complete.

This will be introduced in **Year 5 and 6** and will work in the following way:

- Staff will set a weekly page from CPG books on maths, reading and SPAG – this will be linked where possible to learning taking place in the classroom. Weekly pages to be completed will be added to the weekly homework spelling pattern document found on your child's class webpage
- CPG homework tasks need to be completed **in addition** to the work on high frequency word spelling, spelling patterns, times tables, TT rockstars, My Maths and Take away Homework as these are all key to supporting work being completed in school and all pupils need to be secure in these basic skills
- Tasks are to be completed at home on a weekly basis and marked by the parents (answers are found in each of the CPG books)
- Teachers will be able to answer questions should you have any but will not be marking the work weekly as their time will be spent marking work completed independently in class and providing feedback for improvement for this
- CPG books are to be brought into school with Yellow Homework Journals at the end of a half term so teachers can sign and add team points for consistency of completion, effort and good evidence of independent learning

For parents wishing to follow the additional homework tasks the following books will need to be purchased from CGP. <https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/>

Please note that all of Year 6 will receive additional homework at this point in the year as we prepare all pupils with revision for the SATs in May. Any homework set for parents purchasing the CGP books will be in addition to what Miss Hickson will provide for all pupils to revise.

Year Group	Reading	Maths	SPAG
Year 5	 <p>Q Quick View</p> <p>KS2 English Year 5 Reading Comprehension Targeted Question Book - Book 1 (with Answers)</p> <p>E5CW22 Including answers In stock</p>	 <p>Q Quick View</p> <p>KS2 Maths Year 5 Targeted Question Book</p> <p>M5Q25</p>	 <p>Q Quick View</p> <p>KS2 English Year 5 Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling Targeted Question Book (with Answers)</p> <p>E5W23</p>

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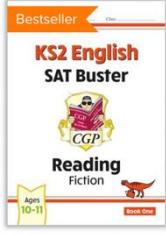
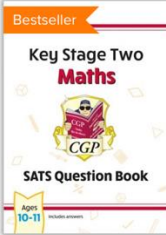
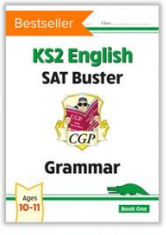
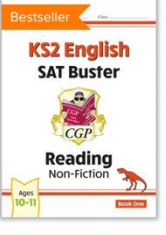
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Year 6	 <p>Bestseller</p> <p>KS2 English SAT Buster</p> <p>Reading Fiction</p> <p>CGP</p> <p>Ages 10-11</p> <p>Book One</p> <p>Quick View</p> <p>KS2 English Reading SAT Buster: Fiction - Book 1 (for the 2024 tests)</p> <p>E6FRF22</p> <p>In stock</p>	 <p>Bestseller</p> <p>Key Stage Two</p> <p>Maths</p> <p>CGP</p> <p>SATS Question Book</p> <p>Ages 10-11</p> <p>Quick View</p> <p>KS2 Maths SATS Question Book - Ages 10-11 (for the 2024 tests)</p> <p>MLFW23</p> <p>In stock</p>	 <p>Bestseller</p> <p>KS2 English SAT Buster</p> <p>Grammar</p> <p>CGP</p> <p>Ages 10-11</p> <p>Book One</p> <p>Quick View</p> <p>KS2 English SAT Buster: Grammar - Book 1 (for the 2024 tests)</p> <p>E6G23</p> <p>In stock</p>	
	 <p>Bestseller</p> <p>KS2 English SAT Buster</p> <p>Reading Non-Fiction</p> <p>CGP</p> <p>Ages 10-11</p> <p>Book One</p> <p>Quick View</p> <p>KS2 English Reading SAT Buster: Non-Fiction - Book 1 (for the 2024 tests)</p> <p>E6FRN22</p> <p>In stock</p>			

We are also aware that some parents may feel more confident than others in supporting your child's learning at home. Along with this letter we have provided a guide for different ways you can support your child with spelling and times tables rehearsal.

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 1st March**.

Homework Spring B

Year 5 2023 - 2024

Under this tab you will find:

- Homework task sheet for 'Spring B' 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 spring term homework



Spellings:

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. There are a list of expected words for the end of KS1 (Year 2) and the end of KS2 (Year 6) 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 'Spring B' 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. By the end of each half term we would be expecting the children to be able to spell in their writing words from all weeks in that half term. 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.

My Maths (Rec – Year 6) will be set weekly and TT Rockstars will focus on times tables (Year 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 day for the spring B is:

Wednesday 27th March 2024 – Spring B

We will also have a 'Share the Learning' event from 3.30pm – 4.30pm on these days where school will be open for parent and carers to come in and view the children's projects in school around the classrooms.

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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 - starting later this school year

Homework Journals and those in Year 5 and 6 who have decided to complete the CPG book tasks need to be brought back into school week beginning **Monday 25th March** to enable staff to have time to look at them before the next half term. 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 future parents evening as to the quality and frequency of homework completed.

I appreciate that there is a lot of information in the letter but we are hopeful that by explaining very clearly the expectations regarding homework at Bunbury we can avoid any confusion.

Please don't hesitate to ask should you require any further clarification.

Many thanks for your continued support

Nic Badger

Principal of Bunbury Aldersey CE Primary School
EHT for Rural Church Schools Academy Trust

