



## Learning at Home Policy

Lead member of staff	Helen Williamson
Approval Level	Full Governing Body
Signed by	Nicola Waters, Chair of Governors
Date Approved	1 <sup>st</sup> December 2021
Next Review	Autumn 2022

The approach to home learning is in three layers: **Core Learning**, **Optional Learning** and **Extended Opportunities**.

### Core learning

This is the work that will be sent home each week and that will support children's learning:

- **Reading**  
The most important, valuable thing you can spend time doing with your child is enjoying books. Children in Key Stage 1 will have a reading record; children in Key Stage 2 will share their reading through a number of ways outlined below.
- **Spelling**  
Children in Years 1-6 have Spelling Log books with lists of words that they need to learn related to spelling rules being taught in class or common exception word lists for specific years.
- **Mental Maths Practice**  
This will be practice of essential maths skills, including number bonds and multiplication facts. Children will know which facts they need to practise at home, but parents and carers can always clarify this with class teachers. Where appropriate, this will be directly communicated to parents and carers.

The Reading Record (if applicable; see below) and spelling books need to be brought into school every day. No child will be punished for not doing this work at home. Instead, we encourage all parents to work in partnership with us to help your child make the best progress they can with these key skills, as set out in the Home School Agreement.

### Reading for pleasure at home

*"Reading for pleasure has many non-literacy benefits and can increase empathy, improve relationships with others, reduce the symptoms of depression and improve wellbeing throughout life" (The Reading Agency 2015)*

*"Students who read for pleasure make significantly more progress in vocabulary, spelling and maths than children who read very little" (Sullivan and Brown 2013)*

Reading for pleasure, as illustrated by the research above, is incredibly supportive for children's learning across the curriculum. Developing a love of reading is key to maintaining and developing the necessary fluency and comprehension skills to become successful, independent, life-long readers.



In EYFS and Key Stage 1, children will be sent home an age and ability-appropriate text weekly that we would encourage you to read with them at home. In Year 1 and Year 2, your child will be given a Reading Record that should be recorded in when you read. Class teachers will monitor this regularly. If you wish to discuss your child's reading, class teachers will be happy to respond via email or telephone, as well as in person where appropriate.

In Key Stage 2, children will have a variety of options to share their reading with their teachers and peers. Following Student Council meetings, reading records are now optional in Key Stage 2, but we encourage children to share their reading, for example:

- Writing or recording a short review of a book they have finished
- Recommended texts to a friend
- Completing some optional learning inspired by their book
- Sending in a selfie of themselves reading at home
- Sending a video clip of themselves reading with a family member or friend

- Contribute to a class reading 'scrapbook' or display
- Engage in discussion with peers or adults about their reading

The list above is not exclusive or exhaustive.

In all key stages, children will be rewarded for demonstrating their love of reading by being issued with tickets for the 'Reading Raffle'. The winner is drawn weekly and will be given a new book as a prize. All children will have equitable opportunities to earn tickets.



As with all aspects of a child's learning, developing a love of reading happens when school and home work in partnership. By valuing reading at home and creating the time and space to do this, parents and carers can make a significant impact on their child's development. We ask families to draw upon the resources provided by school to give children the opportunity to enjoy reading and support their learning across the curriculum. Our social media platforms for reading will provide advice, recommendations and space to share their love of reading.

Instagram

@BPSreading

<https://www.instagram.com/bpsreading/>



@BPSreading

<https://twitter.com/BPSreading>

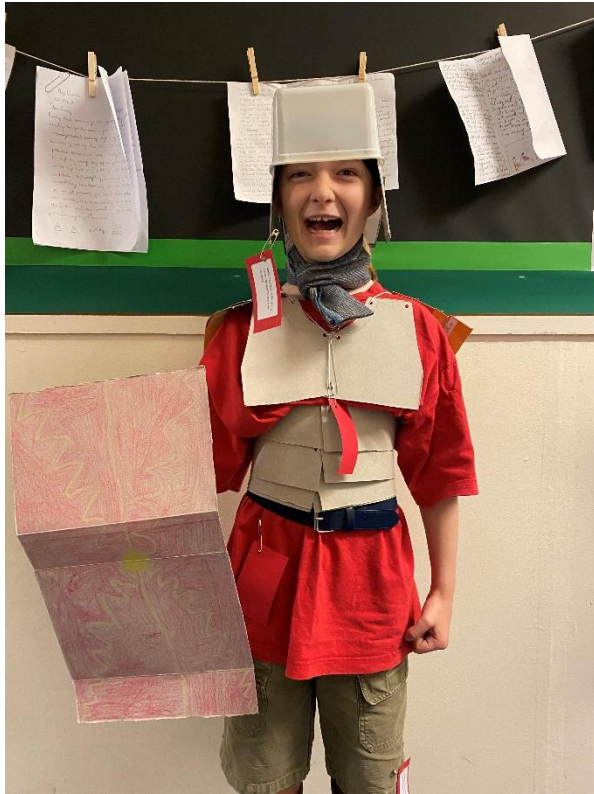


### Optional Homework

This will be sent out at the beginning of each term or topic, and will be a selection of learning opportunities that children may choose from. They are all optional and will be linked to the current year group curriculum and learning journey.



No child will be at a disadvantage if they don't choose to undertake any home learning. They may choose one activity and no others, or they may choose to do something of their own that is not on the suggested list. We celebrate their homework through the sharing and displaying of work in the classroom and around the school so children know that their work is valued.



### Extended Opportunities

At Billingshurst Primary School, we offer a range of extended opportunities for children to assume roles of responsibility, develop leadership skills, explore their interests and nurture their passions. This takes place within school time and in the form of extra-curricular activities. We are committed to giving all children the equitable opportunity to build cultural capital and broaden their horizons.

Examples include:

- School councillors
- Librarians
- Artists in residence, leading workshops across the school
- Representing school in sporting events within the locality
- School choir
- Flexible Friday



