



BROWN CLEE C.E PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Brown Clee C.E. Primary School

Headteacher: Miss Sue Relph

8th December 2022

Dear Parents,

Homework

I am writing as we need your help with supporting children to practice spellings, timestables and reading at home. A few years ago we reviewed our Homework Policy as we believe that homework should be enjoyable and manageable for all concerned and that if it becomes a chore/burden/source of conflict it ceases to be a constructive aspect of teaching and learning. We believe that if we are to set homework then it needs to support childrens' learning (Non-negotiable) and promote and encourage a love of learning and self-regulation skills (Optional). The requirements were as follows:

	Reception	KS1	KS2
Reading	5 mins, at least 5 x per week	5-10 mins 5 x per week	15-20 mins 5 x per week
Spellings/Phonics	5 mins daily	5-10 mins 3x per week	10-15 mins 3x per week
Timestables / Numbots		5-10 mins 3x per week	10-15 mins 3x per week

The reason we need children to carry out the above tasks at home is that it is giving children opportunity to practice what has been taught. The National Curriculum statutory requirements are such that there is very little spare time during a school day for children to practice and revisit content such as spellings, number facts and reading skills.

The ability to retain and recall information is central to improving memory, knowledge and learning and so retrieval practice is a powerful way to improve learning and memory; merely studying words once without ever recalling them will produce 'extremely poor performance' (Karpicke and Bauernschmidt, 2011). Therefore, children need to practise until taught information can be recalled at a deeper level.

As reading, spelling and knowledge of number facts are at the heart of all learning, we need your support to ensure children are practising at home. Children should all be reading and practising their phonics or spellings daily and Spelling Shed is set up for children to help with this. Timestables Rockstars and Numbots are set up for practise of number facts. If children have difficulties accessing these they can always practise on paper.

From January, teachers will be monitoring usage of Spelling Shed and Timestable Rockstars to ensure that children are practising and we will be celebrating independent practice in school.

Yours sincerely,

S Relph

Sue Relph
Headteacher

