

# Barassie Primary School

## Dyslexia Friendly

### Homework Guide



Homework is a useful bridge between home and school and allows parents an insight to the work of the class and the skills and abilities of the child. Barassie Primary Schools Dyslexia Friendly homework policy is to support all children in school.

Homework is provided for a number of different reasons:

- To encourage children to become independent learners.
- To allow children to do homework which is relevant to their needs and help them meet learning targets.
- To provide parents with an opportunity to participate in their children's learning.
- To make parents more aware of their child's work in school.

The amount of homework will vary from stage to stage but will include planned tasks relating to topics, spontaneous work arising from class work and activities to tie in with their course work. P1-3 will mainly be involved in shared reading, reading and topic work for around 15 minutes per day. In P4-7 activities will be varied and could be spread over a period of time. Each child will have a diary to record the work, date to be returned and parent's signature. Homework should not take any more than a total of 2 hours per week. Please contact the school on any concerns relating to homework.

### Setting Homework

- Homework will be set early in the day as the pupil is likely to make mistakes if copying from the board in a rush.
- Enough time will be available for pupils to copy from the board.
- A reasonable time limit will be set for the task to be completed.
- Homework instructions may be included on class handout (or other written slip).
- Instructions might be put onto glow if children have access to this.
- Homework tasks will be chunked into manageable parts.
- Some pupils may be asked to do enough work to practise the concept but not so much that they will take hours to complete.
- Spelling words will be pre-taught prior to setting as homework.
- Dyslexia friendly spelling homework will be one word family or spelling rule at a time, with 1 high frequency word as an exception.
- Mnemonics might be made up to make spelling much more fun.

- Parents will be notified at the beginning of term of the tasks that are expected of them to support their child with reading work.
- Parents will be shown how to pair read with their child if this is appropriate.
- Homework will be varied. Many dyslexic children love a design task, making something, collecting items so we will try to include something that is more innovative!
- If child has known difficulties we will speak to parents regarding the time spent on homework tasks.
- Homework may have to be differentiated so that it is within the child's capabilities.

### Completing and Submitting Homework

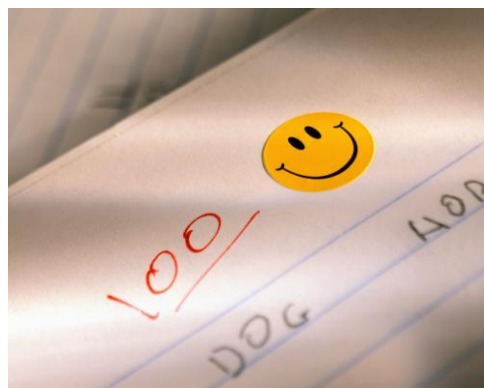
- Children may need more time or shorter tasks.
- Some children may need differentiated homework.
- Children may benefit from submitting homework in alternative ways – for example: bullet points, mind maps, power point presentation, story boards or pictures, oral presentation to the class.

### Parent Feedback

- Parents can communicate any problems in their child's homework diary.
- If homework is causing distress then this needs to be resolved quickly.

### Pupil Feedback

- All opportunities for positive feedback will be used.
- Comments will be clear – sad face / happy face.
- Improvements/next steps will be identified.



## Dyslexia Friendly Homework Tips for Barassie Parents/Carers

- Keep calm. Dealing with homework can be tricky!
- Try to provide a quiet time and place for homework.
- Setting a routine with a visual planner is a good idea, with room for flexibility around after school activities and the need for a “brain break” immediately after school.
- Choose a time that suits both child and other family members.
- Make sure your child is clear what homework has been set, when it has to be completed, and how long it should take.
- Is the homework diary being used?
- Check your child understands what to do – if not, do what you can to help. A best effort will always be appreciated.
- Chunk homework into manageable bits with time for a break in between.
- Use encouragement rather than criticism.
- Do use reward activities for good attempts.
- Mistakes are OK – your child’s teacher uses homework results to assess understanding.
- Encourage using a timer and a checklist to tick off.
- Don’t do the homework for your child but do give suggestions and support.
- For written work check with your child’s teacher what formats are acceptable – bullet points, mind maps, story boards.
- Help your child to edit, self monitor and check their work as they go along.
- Encourage computer skills.
- Reading practice is very important – for 5 minutes a day – using any material your child likes. This needn’t be a book – newspapers, comics, instruction leaflets, recipes are all fine as long as the child can recognise some of the words. Use the **5 finger rule** – your child puts a finger on every word he doesn’t know. Once all 5 fingers have been used up on one page, the text may be too hard for individual reading.
- Keeping a home reading log is a good idea.
- Use paired reading where you and your child read the words together out loud in a relaxed way – the child can ask to take over, or to have a break while you read.
- If homework is becoming a battle or your child is distressed, or avoids homework, try to find out why in a calm low key way, and contact your child’s teacher for advice.