

Barnes Farm Junior School

Henniker Gate, Chelmer Village,
Essex CM2 6QH

Head Teacher: Mr R McTaggart

Tel: 01245 467973

Fax: 01245 461947

E-mail : admin@barnesfarm-jun.essex.sch.uk

Website: www.barnesfarmjuniors.co.uk



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Dear Parents and carers,

Back in January 2018, we asked all parents attending the consultation meetings to share their views on our approach to homework. Thank you to all those who responded and the outcome, like in many schools up and down the country, was very mixed. However, there were some key themes which emerged. As a result of these themes, we have now reviewed our current homework provision to create a more concise and effective approach. Our home learning approach now consists of the following elements:

Weekly

- ✓ Reading
- ✓ Maths
- ✓ Spelling

Over the Half Term

- ✓ Single Project

Our aim is to provide opportunities for pupils to develop their understanding of key skills within the curriculum as well as encouraging their creativity. We also recognise that pupils need time to relax and pursue outside interests as well as spending quality time with their families.

In order to be effective, the homework set will be meaningful and reflective of learning taking place in school. Similarly, we want the pupils to take pride in their learning and get a sense of satisfaction from completing their homework. We will be guiding pupils through our expectations for home learning but here is a summary below for you.

Half-termly Project (replaces in-flight menu)



Pupils will be asked to complete a **project each half term**, the aim of which is to encourage development of skills such as independent learning and organisation. Projects will be linked to the class topics. Teachers will provide suggestions for how the project might be carried out and support where pupils need it. We want the pupils to be as creative as they can. Although the teachers will provide ideas, the pupils are free

to explore the project however they wish.

The projects will be set at the beginning of the half term and should be handed in on the first Friday back after a school holiday. Pupils will therefore have approximately six weeks in which to complete. We will feedback on all projects but some will be nominated for a special assembly which parents will be invited to.



Reading



Pupils should take home their reading book and Pupil Passport each day. We ask that parents initial the pupil passport to show that this has been completed. We will be monitoring this more closely and rewarding classes who read regularly. There is an expectation that pupils should **read at home for a minimum of 10 minutes each day**. The weekly pages in the Pupil Passport provides space for parents to initial when completed. Please refer to p149 of the Pupil Passport and leaflet entitled 'Reading Comprehension.'

Spelling



Words of the week will be recorded in Pupil Passports along with other words the children are learning. We are adopting the 'No Nonsense' scheme for teaching spelling and will provide pupils with strategies (stuck in green Learning Journal) to help them **practise their weekly spelling in their Learning Journals**.

Maths



Pupils will record the times table they are currently working on (if applicable) in their Pupil Passport each week. The expectation is for all pupils to **practise these times tables at home** and record this in their Learning Journal. We will provide a set of ideas for practising times tables (stuck in green Learning Journal) and some useful websites are listed on p5 of the Pupil Passport.



Pupils also have access to Times Table Rockstars to further practise fluency and speed.

All year groups will be set a maths game using our online Abacus resource. Login details can be found in the Pupil Passport.

Year 5 and 6 will be provided with a **homework sheet linked to class work**. This will usually be set from Abacus and pupils will be able to self-mark by checking answers online. Pupils will be asked to stick the sheet into their Learning Journals

Pupils will bring home a green A4 Learning Journal on Monday. This will contain ideas for practising times tables and spellings. Year 5 and 6 should stick their weekly maths worksheet in there too. Pupils can cover/decorate the Learning Journal if they wish. Homework will be set weekly on a Friday and pupils are expected to complete the tasks and hand in by the following Thursday.

On occasions, there may be extra tasks set by teachers which will be noted on the weekly pages in the Pupils Passports.

Pupils will be awarded House Points and/or Secrets of Success rewards for all types of homework completed, including reading.

Yours sincerely,

The Teaching staff at BFJS

