



# HOMEWORK POLICY



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*"Small school, big hearts.  
Wise, responsible, kind like the Good Samaritan."*

### **Our Mission Statement**

**We are a caring, village school which promotes Christian values, where each child receives a high standard of education that is broad, challenging, exciting and encourages creative thinking. We encourage every learner to be the best they can be, to reflect and plan the next steps in their learning journey, demonstrating a respect towards others and contributing to the communities of which they are a part.**

### **Our Vision**

**Our vision is to nurture unique individuals who are outstanding learners, demonstrating wisdom, responsibility and kindness within their communities. Using the Good Samaritan as our role model, we know that loving others as we would want to be loved is upmost for happy, healthy lives.**

### **Values**

**Wise** - we think wisely and are committed to learning. We relish and retain knowledge and value high standards. We have high expectations, high aspirations and enjoy challenge. Like the wise man who built his house upon the rocks (Matthew 7), we think creatively and use learning to make good decisions. We have firm foundations for our lives.

**Responsible** – we are responsible for ourselves – our well-being, our behaviour and our learning. We strive to be the best people we can be and the best person for others. We have a responsibility to others inside and out of school and at times need to be patient, tolerant and courageous in demonstrating this. As Noah had to step up when God asked him to, so must we. We are a school family whose strength is in our ability to work together. We know that perseverance and hard work will bring reward and that resilience is about coping with challenges positively.

**Kind** - we are kind. Through support, nurture and understanding we all flourish. Each one of us is unique – on the outside and inside. We value diversity and respect difference. There are hundreds and thousands, millions of us but God knows everyone and God knows me!

### **Curriculum Intent**

Our curriculum is designed around our Christian values. Each term, we focus on 3 values across the school and develop a working understanding of them through our choice of texts and foundation subject learning, embedding reading and maths at the core. Our approach is to deliver knowledge rich, sequential learning which excites and inspires, provides opportunity for recap and challenge, raises questions for debate, develops learners' confidence and enables independent learning to flourish. High standards, collaboration and valuing individuals' well-being is at the heart of this process. We believe that how we teach is as important as what we teach and that enrichment experiences are an entitlement. We want our curriculum to enable our children to be wise, responsible and kind in line with our school core values.



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At Buckland we work hard to try and ensure that our children enjoy their learning at school. We hope that they will want to carry on learning at home. We recognise that there are different opinions around the subject of "homework" and our school policy seeks to address these differences.

We believe that working at home serves many purposes:

- It encourages children to enjoy learning.
- It offers a chance for children to consolidate and extend the learning they have done at school.
- It allows parents to support their children and gain an insight into school life. (Younger children especially will benefit from doing their homework alongside an adult so that they can talk about it.)
- It provides parents with a chance to see their child's ability in different areas.
- It provides an opportunity for children to be independent, organised and use their initiative.
- It encourages self-discipline and an early understanding of pupil responsibilities.

Having approached working at home from a variety of angles over the past, we have decided to set a pattern for the year so that children and parents know what to expect and to enable us to meet the needs and preferences of different learners.

For all children (except Acorns) this means:

In terms 1, 3 and 5 children will be given a piece of weekly homework which follows up or extends their learning in school that week. This will be English or Maths work. This type of homework is very structured, allowing children to settle into a new year and term, consolidating and extending basic literacy and numeracy skills.

Homework is either set for the term or given out by teachers during the week. We ask that it is always handed in on Monday so that it can be marked and returned to children the next day.

In terms 2, 4 and 6 children will be given a choice of homeworks to complete during the term. They will be able to choose which pieces to do and when. These homeworks will be cross-curricular and relate to the topic of the term. We have found many children and parents enjoy this way of working and it has helped many to develop their independence and motivation.

### **Class expectations:**

**Acorns** — Daily reading

**Beech** — Daily reading, weekly spellings and one set homework which is optional for Y1 but highly encouraged (half an hour maximum).

**Sycamore** — Daily reading, weekly spellings and maths facts, one set homework (30-40 minutes).

**Oak** — Daily reading, weekly spellings and maths facts, one set homework (up to an hour).

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Please continue to record your child's reading in their Reading Record book. This is an important means of dialogue between parents and teachers and lets us see how much reading is being done outside of school. It is particularly important for children from Reception to Year 3. From Year 4 onwards, children may want to begin recording their reading for themselves. This is fine, but please encourage them to keep a record of the texts they are reading and how often they read. Each class has their own reading incentive reward scheme to encourage children to read every day.

Learning spellings and tables by heart can help children assign these to long term memory which will allow more space in their working memory to be able to apply and take on board new learning. We understand children have lots to do at home and we value hobbies and extra-curricular activities. Every family will decide the time they have to encourage children with spellings and tables practise at home.

### **Screen time**

Some of our set homework will be accessed via technology – My Maths and Times Tables Rockstars activities, Spelling Shed, Oxford Owl books and other weekly homework may involve screen time. Parents should decide how much screen time is appropriate for their child, alongside other time they spend on screens and balanced with opportunities for other activities. As a general guide, 20 minutes a day learning at home using technology is appropriate. Children will not generally spend long on screens during their school day, although this will vary with age and subjects taught. Most days will not involve learning with technology, apart from learning facilitated by the interactive boards in the classroom. Children have one computing lesson a week and may use technology to facilitate their learning for short periods at other times.

### **Finally:**

Please do come and ask us if you have any queries or comments regarding working at home. It is important to be flexible in our expectations and each child is different. By working together, teachers and parents can make sure that our children's early experiences encourage them to enjoy learning, develop good routines and see the value of effort. Parent feedback at the bottom of children's work is valuable - so we can see how children approached the task and provide support if necessary.