13.11.2026

Homework Update

Dear Parents/Carers,

At St Bede C of E Primary Academy, we continually review our policies to ensure they support children's learning in the most effective way. Following our recent review of the Home Learning Policy, we would like to share some important changes that will take effect this academic year. These changes are designed to make home learning more purposeful, accessible and supportive of children's progress.

What's changing?

Home Learning rather than Homework
You may notice that we are now referring to "homework" as home learning. This change reflects our belief that learning at home should extend and enhance classroom learning, while also encouraging independence and a love of learning.

A new focus on reading: "Strive for 5"
The most significant change is the introduction of our new Strive for 5 reading expectation across Reception to Year 6. Children are encouraged to read five times each week and record this in their reading record. This can include reading at home, reading in school, and accessing online reading platforms where appropriate for their year group.

Reading remains the single most important activity children can do at home to support their learning and we are excited to place an even greater emphasis on developing regular reading habits.

No weekly compulsory English and Maths homework
We have removed the requirement for weekly English and Maths homework tasks. Evidence suggested that previous compulsory tasks were embedding misconceptions and having little/impact on progress and attainment. Therefore, we have replaced this with progressive access (see year group posters) to carefully chosen online platforms that support reading, spelling and number fluency. These activities provide personalised practice and allow families greater flexibility in managing home learning routines.

Half-termly projects
Our optional homework grids have been renamed Half-Termly Projects. These projects continue to allow children to showcase their creativity and interests by choosing how to present their learning. We now strongly encourage children to complete at least one project each half term, which should be uploaded to Showbie by the first day back after the holidays.

Updated spelling provision
For Years 3 to 6, spelling grids will continue to be shared each half term and will include weekly spellings linked to our curriculum. These will correspond with activities available on Spelling Shed and will support preparation for weekly spelling tests.

Support for all learners
We have also added a new section outlining the reasonable adjustments that can be made where needed. As always, we are committed to ensuring that home learning is accessible and inclusive for all pupils.

Why are we making these changes?

Educational research suggests that well-designed home learning can strengthen long-term memory, improve independence and support academic progress. Our revised approach places greater emphasis on reading, retrieval of previous learning and the development of fundamental key skills, while allowing children more choice and flexibility in how they learn at home.

Thank you for your continued support in helping your child develop positive learning habits at home.

Kind regards,

A Black

Mrs A. Black
Headteacher