



Beckwithshaw Community Primary School
Church Row
Harrogate
HG3 1QW
01423 504642
admin@beckwithshaw.n-yorks.sch.uk

Head Teacher: Mrs Lisa Jackson-Ward

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Homework Forum Feedback

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this information evening where we focussed on four main lines of enquiry. These were:

- Are school's expectations of homework manageable?
- Do you feel you have the necessary skills as parents to support your child with their homework, throughout their time with us?
- What barriers do you face at home when getting your child to complete their homework?
- As parents, do you understand what is expected from you at home?

The evening began with a 'market place' which enabled parents to look at resources, pick up leaflets and discuss the homework areas with staff. This was a very positive start and the leaflets that were available will be sent home with children so all families can benefit from them.

Feedback

Are school's expectations of homework manageable?

Generally the consensus was yes. It was felt that the focus on spellings/phonics, space mission and reading throughout the school was appropriate and that it was better done in short, focussed periods of time across the week. Parents felt confident about when to push for a little more and when to stop because they had a good understanding of their child's capabilities.

There was some discussion about extra homework, with the staff explaining that there are times when other activities might come home. However, the weekly homework remained the most important because it practised the skills the children would use daily.

Do you feel you have the necessary skills as parents to support your child with their homework, throughout their time with us?

Quite a few queries were raised about the space mission homework. There was some confusion about the test papers which came home and their relation to the space mission targets. It was explained that the children are tested regularly against their targets and these papers are sent home for parents to look at and pick up on any mistakes. It was pointed out that the children can still be working on their target even after the test has been delivered.

It was also noted that these facts are about memory, not calculation strategies. We discussed how the children would work on calculating and understanding within class, but for homework purposes, the children needed to know the answers within three seconds. One group discussed

memory techniques, apps and computer games. School is going to compile a list of IT resources to help with homework.

What barriers do you face at home when getting your child to complete their homework?

Most parents agreed that it would be good to have all the homework related activities/tests in one place. This continuity would add further clarification on the learning needing to be achieved and on the progress in school.

Sometimes time can be a bit of an issue, as the children are busy after school, but it was felt that breaking down the homework challenges into small chunks of time really helped. Staff commented on the progress the children were making in these areas and that it was clear that more emphasis was being placed on learning this knowledge at home which was having a positive impact on the children's school work.

As parents, do you understand what is expected from you at home?

Parents felt they knew what they needed to do and how to communicate that it had been achieved. They also understood how to raise any queries they may have. They felt that there were no further improvements to be made.

Next Steps

We will pull together a list of useful IT apps and programs to help parents and place all homework in one book to help parents track their child's learning and progress. Finally, we will try and give clearer instructions on the space mission targets so parents understand their role and how these will be tested.

We hope that you have found this as useful as we did. Thank you for taking the time to read this feedback document.

The staff at Beckwithshaw.