

How it works...

Each half term, children will be given a grid, like the one in this leaflet. The idea is that children choose which home learning projects they would like to complete in order to gain a set number of points, usually 100 a half term. Parents and children will need to feedback on progress towards the 100 points, using the home learning diary, on a weekly basis. Towards the end of the half term, children will have the opportunity to present their learning to their class and receive feedback from their teachers and peers.

The importance of daily reading

Reading is a key skill. Alongside the projects, children are also **expected to read on a daily basis**, with parents or children commenting on their progress, depending on the reading ability of your child.

Recall facts—Spellings, rapid recall and Times Tables.

Quick and fluent recall of basic facts and spellings are key in enabling children to access higher order thinking and reasoning. Part of their everyday homework will also be to practise their spellings and number fact recall as well as access the website Times Table Rock Stars, from Year 2 onwards. There will also be some FRIENDS resilience talk home work in the terms it is being taught in school.

How Home Learning develops life long learning skills

Taking ownership and responsibility - as well as having some choice— are key to developing a love of life long learning. Our home learning policy provides opportunities for our children to practise our Keyham Keys, which help unlock their learning. The Keyham Keys are characters linked to various learning and study skills: you may have heard your child talking about the 'persevering parrot' or the 'go for it gorilla'. Please refer to our school website for more information on our Keyham Key characters!

We want to know what you think...

We will be consulting with the children later in the term, but we would also welcome feedback from parents. We want home learning to be enjoyable, purposeful, effective and manageable for all. Please let us know what you think!

Frequent concerns regarding homework...

When is my child supposed to play?

Our children work incredibly hard in school! Our expectations are high, as are our standards. We also agree that it is important that children have *down* time in order to reflect, grow, spend time with their loved ones and to just *be*. However, research shows that home learning has a positive impact on the overall success of individuals. Therefore, the projects are created with the children: they are 'playful' and are tasks the children have actually asked to do. There are a range to choose from and children are encouraged to be creative in how information is presented. Most children see this as fun and it has a huge impact on their motivation: use of time is efficient and effective and therefore home learning does not eat into important family time.

I have a hard time getting my child to complete their homework.

Traditionally, homework has taken the form of worksheets with most tasks being based on pencil and paper methods. Not only are these monotonous, they are impossible for children who struggle with traditional written methods. There are numerous ways for children to show what they know and although we will continue to develop core skills until every child is competent in them, it is crucial to offer all children (even those who are comfortable with written methods) the chance to show their particular strengths and talents. (For example through film, dance, science, poetry, art and music).

My child might not do their best just so they can complete everything quickly.

The children know that they get no brownie points for early completion of the tasks. The same high expectations for quality work that we have in school, remains applicable for home learning. Teachers will check children's progress and feedback on a weekly basis. In classes where this approach has been trialled, we have been blown away by the quality of homework: a quality of learning that far surpasses completed worksheets. We believe this is due to an increase in motivation. Additionally, the set 100 point target is a minimum. You may see your child doing more!

We haven't got the supplies at home for what my child wants to do!

Our children have big ideas and some of the projects are extremely creative. Children know that they can ask to take whatever they need from school to use at home.

I work long hours and just can't seem to find the time to support my child in quality homework.

Although working with a parent has its advantages, children should be able to complete the projects independently. However, if you would like support with this, please speak to your child's teacher. We may be able to offer time after school to help.

My child has brought homework back to school and we have not had any feedback. I don't know if my child did all right or not! Should I know this?

Of course you should! Towards the end of each half term, classes will gather to review home learning. Children will receive feedback from their teachers and peers and this will be shared with you.

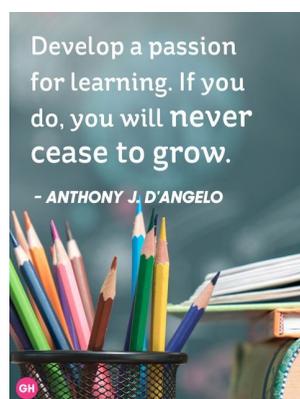


Home Learning
at
Keyham Barton
Catholic Primary
School

Our vision of learning

At Keyham Barton, we have high standards for academic success. We also believe that education is much more than this!

We encourage the development of skills that help children navigate successful, happy and productive lives.



We recognise the importance that our practices and ways of working have upon the development of these skills and we design our curriculum and teaching in order to build these strengths in our children.

It is important that this is mirrored in our Home Learning (homework), too. Children and parents have been telling us they would like homework to be different: that it is often unmanageable or (shamefully) boring! This is so at odds with our vision for education that we are compelled to try something different!

An example of a home learning grid.

English	Maths	Humanities	Art	Science/RE/PE
Write a story based in the Norman era 20 points	Create a 3D shape and produce a fact file on it, including a drawing of the net 40 points	Write a play script based around the Battle of Hastings 40 points	Either create a tapestry or a painting of a section of the Bayeux Tapestry 60 points	Plan a meal at home (And cook it if possible) 20 points for planning 40 points for planning and cooking 60 points for planning, cooking and reviewing
Write a diary entry as though you fought in the Battle of Hastings. 20 points	Create your own maths quiz (at least 20 questions) 20 points Compulsory	Create a fact file about England and France. Alternatively, you could compare the two countries now and in Norman time. 20 points	Make a prop for the play. This could be for your own character or for the 'Be our guest' scene. Perhaps food, cutlery or decorate a plate? 30 points	Write a prayer to go in our prayer folder. It can be a prayer for at the start or end of the day or before lunch time. It should be presented in a way that it can be displayed in our prayer folder. 10 points
Write a letter to your future self, explaining your hopes and wishes for life at secondary school. Compulsory 20 points (At least three-quarters of page)	Create a method of helping with any times tables you struggle with. This could be a song, rhyme or visual method. 20 points	Create a timeline of events before and during the Norman era. 30 points	Create a model of a weapon that would have been effective at the Battle of Hastings (can be pre-existing or a new weapon). 30 points	Draw a circuit using the symbols of electronic components, label it and explain how it works. 30 points
Write a non-chronological report on the Normans (at least 2 pages). 30 points.	Draw a battle field or Norman village and write the perimeter and area of different elements within the village/field. 30 points	Draw a map showing the locations of events linked to the Battle of Hastings. 40 points	Make part of an outfit that a soldier would have worn during the Battle of Hastings. 40 points.	Create your own sports game that could be used in sports week. 20points.