

Weston Park Primary School



Home Learning Policy

Date of last review: June 2019

Date of next review: June 2021

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Introduction and Rationale

At Weston Park Primary School, we believe that children who consolidate their school learning at home make better progress at school overall. It is with this rationale that we focus our home learning tasks. By setting home learning we aim to encourage a strong and positive partnership between home and school; to enable parents to support classroom work and to ensure that children make the best possible progress.

Home learning throughout the school is focused on the development of literacy and numeracy skills. This may be discrete or linked to class creative curriculum topics or Early Years Foundation Stage. Any home learning should be manageable for children to complete without substantial parental support and should not be too time consuming. The amount of home learning set will increase as children move up through the school so that they are ready for transfer to secondary school. It is important to note that the Summer Term in Year 6 will see an increase in homework as we prepare our pupils for the increased homework expectations demanded by secondary schools.

Parents can help by giving children plenty of encouragement and praise for effort. They can also help by providing a good routine and suitable working space that will encourage focused working. Above all, home learning should, where possible, be enjoyable, meaningful and support pupil progress.

All children across the school have a reading record. Teachers will acknowledge this record during guided reading sessions with a signature and comment if appropriate.

Aims

- As a school we aim to set home learning tasks that are challenging, interesting, enjoyable and linked to class work where possible. We will ensure home learning tasks are appropriately differentiated if appropriate.
- The school and parents/carers will aim to extend and enrich learning opportunities, showing children that learning can take place at many times and in many places, not only in school.
- Out-of-school clubs and activities also play an important part in the lives of many children, and home learning should be manageable so that children are able to participate in activities such as these.

- Home learning tasks should help children develop responsibility for their own learning and develop independence.
- Home learning should promote a partnership between home and school in supporting each child's learning.
- If parents/carers have any questions about home learning, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher either in person at either the beginning or the end of the day. If the questions are of a more general nature, they should contact the Deputy Headteacher in the relevant phase.
- Wherever relevant and possible, the school will aim to provide workshops to support parents in developing home learning. These workshops may include ICT, Literacy or Numeracy skills.

What things will children be expected to do at home in Reception?

There is not a regular, weekly home learning that is set by the teachers. Please see below for guidelines.

Curriculum Area	Home Learning Task
Reading	Read with their parent/carer every evening . Children in Reception are given a Reading Record to be completed by the parent/carer each day. Children are given a guided reading book and pupils are allowed to choose a book as required.
Reading and Spelling	Practise reading 'tricky words' and phonemes which are sent home at the discretion of the teacher, to support what is being followed in the class.
Reading & Speaking and Listening	Listen to an adult read a story. A text is available from the Lower School library or from the class story box.
Speaking and Listening	Talk to their parent/carer about what they have been learning at school in particular reference to topic work. The teacher may also suggest nursery rhymes, song or poems to be shared at home.
Mathematics	At times children may be issued with simple number tasks that will support children's mathematical understanding.
Additional	Topic linked/Additional tasks may be set at the discretion of the teacher. 'Proud Clouds' will be sent home at least half termly inviting parents to provide information on aspects of learning that they have observed at home.

What things will children be expected to do at home in Year 1?

There is not a regular, weekly home learning that is set by the teachers. Please see below for guidelines.

Curriculum Area	Home Learning Task
Reading	Read with their parent/carer every evening . Children in Year 1 are given a Reading Record to be completed by the parent/carer each day. The staff in Year 1 will also write in this record book. Parents/carers will be supplied with focus questions to support home learning.
Reading and Spelling	Practise reading 'tricky words' and phonemes which are sent home at the discretion of the teacher, to support what is being followed in the class. This may include 'Alien/real words' in preparation for the Year 1 Phonics screening.
Reading & Speaking and Listening	Listen to an adult read a story. A suggested text is available from the KS 1 library.
Speaking and Listening	Talk to their parent/carer about what they have been learning at school in particular reference to topic work or a given question/task/thought.
Mathematics	At times children may be issued with simple number tasks that will support children's mathematical understanding.
Creative Curriculum	Topic linked/Additional tasks/projects may be set at the discretion of the teacher.

What things will children be expected to do at home in Year 2 and 3?

Curriculum Area	Home Learning Task
Speaking and Listening	Talk to parent/carers about what they have been learning at school. This may be through a specific speaking and listening homework, directed by the teacher.
Reading	Read with their parent/carer every evening . Pupils or parents/carers are required to complete a Reading Record. This should be returned to school each day.
Spelling	<p>In Year 2 children will practise spelling high frequency words and will also have a phonic focus for the week.</p> <p>In Year 3 children practise spelling patterns or words that are taken from the National Curriculum or are an identified area of focus. Spellings will be assessed through investigation and practical learning and applied in their writing throughout the half term.</p>
Mathematics	In Year 2 and 3 children will be encouraged to use the online programme 'Times Tables Rockstars'. This fun and engaging programme is a fantastic way to improve children's understanding of times tables.
Literacy and Creative Curriculum	Topic linked/additional tasks/projects may be set at the discretion of the teacher

What things will children be expected to do at home in Year 4, 5 and 6?

Curriculum Area	Home Learning Task
Speaking and Listening	Talk to their parent/carer about what they have been learning at school or a wider, global issue. This may be through a specific speaking and listening homework, directed by the teacher.
Reading	Read with/read to their parent/carer every evening . Pupils and parents/carers are required to complete a record of this every day. Reading Records should be returned to school each day and will be monitored. Pupils will have the opportunity to change their books regularly.
Spelling	Practise spelling patterns or words that link to the current English topic that are taken from the National Curriculum or are an identified area of focus. Spellings will be assessed through investigation and practical learning and applied in their writing throughout the half term.
Mathematics	In Year 4, 5 and 6 children will be encouraged to use the online maths programme 'Times Tables Rockstars'. This fun and engaging programme will support children in developing their understanding and rapid recall of multiplication facts.
Wider Curriculum	Home learning projects will be set each term. A date of completion will be given at the start of the project along with clear instructions and guidance to help complete the task.

What additional things will children be expected to do at home in Year 6?

At Weston Park Primary School we believe that children should be ready for their secondary school experience - this includes home learning. We are aware of the organisational changes that children experience when they reach their secondary school. In order to support this, the above points are relevant, with the addition of:

- Tasks and projects will be given with a variety of dates and deadlines to be met throughout the year.
- Tasks are not limited solely to those listed above
- Home learning will not diminish in Year 6 in the Summer Term
- Practice test papers may be set as required in small, manageable sections

We believe that informal dialogue is the most effective way to communicate. Teachers are available in the mornings and the afternoons before school. If homework is not completed parents and carers are encouraged to speak to the class teachers at these times.

Assessment and Feedback

Teachers will acknowledge and reward the children according to their efforts. Methods of acknowledgement include: peer marking, self- assessment, testing and verbal feedback.

Monitoring

Home learning will be monitored by the Senior Leadership Team.

Samples of homework will be taken from classes half-termly to ensure the pitch and challenge is appropriate. This will form part of our annual monitoring cycle.

Review and Evaluation of the Policy

The policy will be reviewed annually, to ensure it is kept in line with any curriculum changes that take place within the school or externally.