



## Homework

We believe that while homework is an excellent way for your child to consolidate their learning and become independent learners, children should have time outside of school to play, socialise, join clubs and do all the things that make them rounded and happy children. We believe our approach to homework will fit in to that ethos.

If you have any questions about the work your child is doing in class, or want to discuss how you can help your child even more, then our doors are always open! Please come to school to discuss this with your class teacher: if we cannot see you immediately, then make an appointment and a meeting can be arranged. You are also welcome to see Mr. Salisbury at any time to discuss matters further.

We have considered the views of parents and tried to devise a home learning policy that is suitable and flexible for all of our parents and children. If you have any requests for more homework, or feel your child needs less or more individual homework, then please do not hesitate to contact your class teacher.

# Home learning

At Woodfield School, our aim is to provide the best education possible for your child. Part of this is to provide you with information on how you can help your child learn outside of school, as well as explaining how we set homework in each of our year groups. This leaflet will explain our policy towards home learning, as well as provide you with websites and other information designed to help your child become the best they can be.

## Reading

Reading is an essential part of every child's education and underpins all we do here at Woodfield. We want to nurture a love of reading in your child and help them to explore the world of books available to them. We would hope that all of our children will read for at least 10 to 15 minutes each day, either to you or independently.

We use digital reading records for children from Reception to Year 4 as a means of communication between home and school. If you are at all unsure, your child's class teacher will be able to let you know which sounds your child is working on or whether they are developing their reading fluency or intonation. Early readers learn to read by decoding the sounds and it is important to remind them to use their phonic strategies if they become stuck on a word. At school we ask them to 'Fred talk' a word if they are stuck, which means saying each sound before attempting to blend together to read the whole word. We also encourage children to segment longer words into syllables to break it down.

In addition to their Read Write Inc decodable books, all children across school have access to our school library. These books may be at a level beyond that which they can read independently and they may enjoy sharing the books with you or you reading aloud to them.

## Purpose

We have sought the views of parents and have tried to devise an approach to homework that reflects our approach to learning here at Woodfield. We understand that every parent has a view on homework and we want to have an approach that we feel is fair, purposeful and, most importantly, helps your child to learn. Our homework will:

- Allow children to practise independently skills they need for the classroom (e.g. spellings, times tables)
- Reinforce learning from that week in school
- Consolidate previous learning
- Extend skills that they have learnt that week

Homework will therefore be an opportunity for you to see what your child has been learning (and get involved if you wish), but in the knowledge that they should be able to complete their homework independently. It is our view that new learning and concepts should be taught in the classroom, so we will not be asking your child to do anything they have not covered in class. There will always be times when children struggle with homework, but please be assured that there is always help available from your teacher should you or your child need it.

We believe children should have time outside of school to play, socialise and do all the things that make them rounded and happy children. We hope our homework policy will fit in to that ethos.

## Maths

Maths homework will be given to all year groups, every week. The aim of maths homework is to practise and to consolidate skills that they have been learning that week, or skills that will improve other aspects of their maths work including developing their fluency with number.

Having a deep understanding of number underpins a huge amount of primary maths. Fluency in times tables, and being able to recall number facts quickly and accurately are vital for your child to succeed in more complex maths. Consequently, a great deal of maths work in **years 1,2,3 and 4** is based on number facts for example number bonds to 10 and 100, adding mentally to a hundred or a thousand; halving and doubling; and times tables. Your child's homework is likely to reflect this and may bring home fluency questions or problem solving based around these skills or the use of websites or programs including TTRS.

As your child progresses through school, the emphasis in maths will change to the four operations and more complex concepts such as fractions, decimals, percentages, algebra and ratio (although they are all introduced in simple forms in year 3 and 4). Homework in **years 5 and 6** will become more complex, but it will usually be a consolidation of topics that have been taught that week. Homework may also encourage your child to practice mental arithmetic strategies; it is vital that your child becomes more confident using these methods and strategies with accuracy.

## Spelling

All children in school have a weekly spelling check that includes the spelling patterns taught that week as well as previously taught spellings. We believe that it is vital that children are able to retain the spellings that they have practised previously and apply these correctly in their writing across the curriculum. We do not, therefore, send home a list of words to learn for a one-off test each week. We continue to teach and check spellings that children are unsure of and revisit words repeatedly until we are confident that the children really *know* how to spell these words. To support your child with spelling at home, they have access to the RWI spelling Extra Practice Zone online and will also benefit from practising the spellings written down in their Spelling Log Book with you, which are the words/patterns that they personally find tricky to remember.

## Don't Forget...

We think Years 1 and 2 should be reading every day, but we also think it is important you talk to your children and ask them about what they are doing in school. Improving children's vocabulary and speaking skills are vital to ensure they become articulate and confident in all areas of the curriculum. We think Years 3 and 4 should be spending up to 30 minutes a week on homework (not including daily reading). This extends to **1 hour** for year 5 and 6 children.

If you have any questions about the homework being provided for your child, please do not hesitate to contact your class teacher or Mr.Salisbury.

Websites: [whiterosemathshub.co.uk/](http://whiterosemathshub.co.uk/) <https://www.ruthmiskin.com/en/parents-copy-2/>