

WELTON PRIMARY SCHOOL



Homework Policy

Policy confirmed by the Governing Body of Welton Primary School on:

Date:

Signed: _____ (Head Teacher)

Signed: _____ (Chair of Governors)

What are the aims of this policy?

- To ensure a consistent approach to homework throughout the school.
- To ensure that teachers, parents and children have a clear understanding regarding expectations for homework.
- To ensure that teachers, parents and children are fully aware of the role they play with regard to homework.

What is the purpose of homework?

- To consolidate, reinforce and extend skills.
- To provide opportunities for parents and children to work together.
- To allow parents to gain an understanding of what children are learning in school.
- To allow children to progress towards becoming more independent learners.

What is the role of the school?

- To provide parents with a clear policy regarding homework.
- To ensure this policy is fully and consistently followed.
- To provide support for parents with information about homework.
- To provide support for children with the running of a homework club where possible.

What is the role of the teacher?

- To plan and set a programme of homework that is appropriate to the needs of the child.
- To ensure all children understand the homework they have been given.
- To mark and give feedback about homework.
- To be available to talk to parents and children about homework.
- To inform parents if there is a problem regarding homework.

What is the role of the parent/carer?

- To support the child in completing homework.
- To ensure the child completes homework to a high standard and hands it in on time.
- To provide the appropriate conditions for the child to complete the homework.
- To provide the appropriate resources for the child to complete the homework - please talk with the class teacher if you need resources.

What is the role of the child?

- To ensure they have everything they need to complete homework each week.
- To make sure they understand the tasks that have been set - please encourage children to chat to a teacher if they don't understand.
- To put in the same level of effort as would be expected of class work.
- To hand the homework in on time.
- To take on board any feedback about homework.

Homework in Foundation Stage

Learning together is the emphasis for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). The activities are Literacy and Numeracy based with a strong emphasis on reading and sharing books together at home. Parents are given their child's individual Literacy Target with suggestions of games they can play together with appropriate apps and computer games that support learning in a fun, interactive and child friendly way. Maths Targets are also given in a "Counting Bag" which contains maths games and resources to support mathematical development. Targets are continually assessed and parents are informed when targets are reached and new targets are set. Weekend challenges are also set via Twitter to encourage the links between home/school learning. Parents are asked to send in pictures via Twitter which are used in school to encourage speaking skills and to allow practitioners to explore children's understanding and extend learning using individual fascinations.

What type of work will my child get?

Reading

In Foundation Stage, parents will be informed of the phonemes and high frequency words that the children are learning in school as they are learnt in lessons or at the child's pace. Starting in the autumn term and continuing all year, the main emphasis is on reading at home. This should be done in two ways.

- **Adults reading to children:**

Parents are encouraged to share books from their own homes, the School Library and other Library facilities. They are also asked to share reading in the environment when it is appropriate i.e. signs and captions in the street. Parents should encourage children to point to words as they are being read. Discussion about the books is important.

- **Children reading to an adult:**

When they are ready to, children will start bringing simple books home to 'read' to an adult. Some of the books in the first term will be 'textless books' - much valuable conversation and discussion can be had about the pictures and the layout of the book. Again, encouraging the child to point to the words as they are being read is important. Discussing the story and the characters and asking questions about the book will help with the child's understanding of language.

Tricky Words

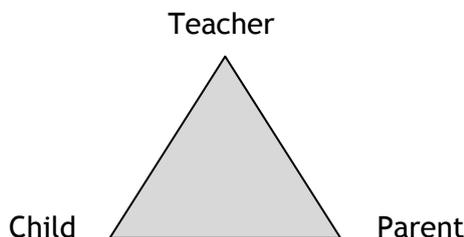
Children learn to read tricky words as part of 'Letters and Sounds'. After the children have learned the tricky words in each phase, parents will be sent a list of the words the children have learned. Regularly practising reading them, looking out for the words in reading books and playing games with them will really benefit the child. For some children, it will be useful to practise writing the words as well as reading them. The teachers may send home games to give parents some ideas. It would be useful if these words were practiced on a regular basis in the summer holiday before Year 1, as well as parents continuing to share books with their child.

Letter formation

At the beginning of the child's first term in Reception, the Reception teachers will provide parents with writing book to support children with letter formation. This shows where to start and finish when forming each letter and what each letter should look like. Giving children the opportunity to practise forming letters and also developing drawing skills with a variety of different tools will give them valuable practice. The important thing is to watch them and correct any mistakes sensitively so they don't fall into bad habits. Parents can view the correct formation of letters on the website by watching the "Showme" videos on the class blog.

Homework in Key Stage 1 and 2

Homework continues to be an essential aspect of learning as children continue through the school. To get everything working well rests with three key people: The teacher, The child, The parent/carer. The single most important ingredient of success at school rests on the power of these three to work together well. If any is missing, learning will be less effective.



What type of work will my child get?

Reading

Reading on a regular basis is vital. Children will bring their reading books home every evening and the role of the adult is to listen and support them. It is important to remind them to use different strategies to read new words, sounding out the word, looking at the pictures and looking for words within words are ways in which the child can read an unknown word. Discussing the book to check that the child has understood what has been read is also important. Children will have a reading record which parents/carers should sign or comment in each time they read with the child. Reading to a child is also highly beneficial.

Spellings (which may include elements of punctuation and grammar)

Children will bring home words each week for them to read, write and learn. Parents can help children to learn these by practising them regularly and often. Children will be tested on their words each week.

Maths

Children receive weekly maths homework that will reinforce the learning in lessons that week. Maths homework is a game set by the teacher which can be accessed on www.activelearnprimary.co.uk. Teachers will access your child's homework performance online. We also recommend weekly practice of times tables at home.

CGP textbooks

Pupils in Key Stage 2 will be provided with a Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar (SPAG) and/or Maths home learning textbook published by CGP. Teachers will set a weekly task which pupils will complete directly in the book(s).

Overview of expected homework

Year Group	Daily	Weekly
Key stage 1	10 mins reading	Spellings www.activelearnprimary.co.uk
Key stage 2	20 mins reading	Spellings Maths/SPAG (CGP book) www.activelearnprimary.co.uk

In addition:

- Every child will receive one home challenge within the year to complete with their families. This will usually be related to the current curriculum topic and will have a creative focus.
- A child may receive extra pieces of homework during the year at the discretion of the class teacher.

How can parents find out more information about homework?

Homework tasks will be set on **Friday** and will be due in on **the following Thursday**. Teachers will have different systems for handing in homework and they will tell parents and children about this. If parents need advice on how to support their children with homework then they should talk to the class teacher.

What about children who don't complete homework?

The expectation is that children will complete homework. Teachers will keep records of children completing homework and these records will be checked on a regular basis. Children must let their teacher know if they are having difficulties with their homework *before* the due date so that help may be provided. If there are any problems with children not completing homework then the teacher will speak to the child/parents to find out why. Where pupils do not regularly complete their homework, a yellow card may be issued. This is particularly important for pupils in Years 5 and 6 in preparation for the demands of secondary school.