



White Bridge Infant School Homework Policy

At this school, we value the learning that children do at home as well as learning done in school. We try to work in partnership with parents, so that each child's progress in all areas of their development is maximised.

We seek to develop children's learning in the widest sense. This includes their academic progress in all areas of the curriculum, the development of their independence and attitudes to learning, and their personal and social development as individuals. We firmly believe that children of this age need space to play, think, and develop their own ideas. For this reason, we try to ensure that the homework that we ask you to do at home with your child allows them time for this when they are at home. Children who work hard at school all day will be tired when they come home.

We also recognise that children who have regular help at home do better than those who do not. However, there are many ways to support children's learning in a practical and fun way at home that will keep children's interest in learning alive. Homework for children of this age is best done daily in short bursts, rather than once a week in a long session.

We do not send home work sheets in any subject on a regular basis.

The most significant homework that we ask all parents/carers to do regularly, every day, is reading. Helping your child with reading at home is very important, and although the way that you do this will change as they move through the school, it remains the key homework for all year groups. If you spend 15 minutes with your child on reading each week day, this meets the homework target time of one and a quarter hours a week for Key stage 1 pupils.

Staff are willing to give advice on how to help children at home with reading where this is required, and there are 2 meetings in the Reception year which give parents specific advice about this.

For Maths we have a brief booklet (one in each year group) which contains varied suggestions for a range of Maths activities that parents can do with their children at home over the course of the year. We suggest that these are used as a resource for ideas to extend children's mathematical thinking in a range of ways. Many of the ideas are simple quick activities that can be included in everyday home life, and help children to use and apply theoretical knowledge to real life situations.

Children in Key Stage 1 will also have termly targets for Reading, Writing and Maths, which they focus on in school. These are given at the time of Parents' Evenings in the autumn and spring term. These usually relate to core skills, and Parents can use these as a focus for work at home when appropriate. Summer term targets are included within the end of year report, and these show where your child will need to develop as they enter the next year of school.

There will also be some occasions when children may be asked to undertake a simple piece of homework that relates to a topic that they are working on in class. For example, when doing electricity, they may be asked to make a list of all the things in their home that use electricity.

What regular daily/weekly homework can you expect for each year group?

Foundation

We ask you to read with your child each night for 5-10 minutes initially, moving up to 15 minutes over time. This may include reading to them, as well as them reading to you. We also ask you to practise their KRM sounds and sight vocabulary for a couple of minutes as often as you can. The words and sounds will be entered in their reading diary when it is appropriate. This homework is a must for all children.

We ask you to sign the reading diary whenever you read with your child.

We will also send home a letter formation sheet when appropriate, so that if your child is writing at home, you can help them to form their letters correctly. We ask you to practise lower case letters only at first, which they will often find harder than capital letters, as they almost always require the pencil to follow the whole letter through without taking the pencil off the paper. This homework is intended to support handwriting development, and is provided to support parents if needed. It is not *required*, but has been found to help some parents.

Year 1

We ask you to hear your child read each night for 15 minutes. They will need your help with unknown words. Many will also still need to practise their sight vocabulary for a few minutes as often as possible. The appropriate words for your child will be given to you. Once they have established a strong sight vocabulary (100 key words), they will no longer have word lists to learn. Once a child knows 100 key words well, they should be able to use these to read with increasing confidence and fluency.

By this stage some children will also enjoy practising spelling words, and if they are keen to do so, then select early words from their sight vocabulary list, or get them to spell words that are phonically regular by sounding out.

It is very helpful for children to practise correct letter formation through handwriting at home sometimes, and we encourage parents to watch their children as they form letters, correcting any that are formed incorrectly. (A sheet showing correct formation is available for anyone who needs it.)

Year 2

We ask you to hear your child read every day. Many will be reading longer texts that may be too long to read in one sitting, and some pupils will be fluent readers who can read independently. However, they still need to work with you for 15 minutes each day. As well as listening to them read, you can help by exploring the meaning of words that they do not know, and asking questions about the book they are reading to make sure that they understand it. This can be direct questions about the page they have just read, but should also include questions about the whole text. For example, if you ask them to tell you what the book was about, they should be able to tell you the main points of the story, which part they enjoyed best, who the main character was, etc. If the book is an information text, they should be able to tell you some key things that they have learned.

Any parent who is not sure how best to help their child with reading at any stage should ask the teacher for advice.

For very fluent readers in year 2, teachers may sometimes suggest extension work for pupils to do at home. This will be considered on an individual basis, and only if appropriate.

Handwriting practice will be identified where this is a target, and practice at home is always useful.

Children can also be encouraged to practise the spelling of the 100 key words that form their core sight vocabulary. Our aim is that they spell these words so confidently that in independent writing they consistently get these correct. From time to time we may vary the suggestions for helping your child if we find a method or activity that is really useful.

Maths ideas can be drawn from the termly targets, as well as looking for maths in the world around them.

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