Shine as Lights in the World- Philippians 2.15

At Wychwood we aspire to shine as lights in the world, fostering a life-long love for learning. Building a strong community through loving relationships, together we are curious about the world with an understanding of our responsibility to care for it and in doing so promoting respect for people and the planet.

Homework Policy

Aim

The aim of our homework policy is to promote learning beyond the school day. We believe that homework consolidates classroom learning, building fluency of recall of learned facts; helps children to develop skills and attitudes; develops independent learning skills; and it fosters the role of parents or carers as active partners in their children's learning.

We will make every effort to combat disadvantage by considering the needs of those children whose access to resources and home support are limited.

Objectives

- to provide opportunities for parents, pupils and the school to work together in partnership in relation to the pupils' learning;
- to promote a life-long love of reading;
- to consolidate and reinforce learning done in school and assist in preparation for future class work by building fluency and automaticity in reading, writing and calculating;
- to develop good work habits and self-discipline for the future; and
- to develop the skills and attitudes necessary for independent learning.

Types of Homework

Reading

Supporting your child to read frequently at home is one of the most important ways you can influence their future success at school and beyond. Being a lifelong reader can be a great source of joy and of knowledge too. Learning to read is also essential for children to be able to access learning across all subject areas of the curriculum. Children need to practise their reading in school and at home in order to ensure they progress well and develop fluency. Please commit to listening to your child read at least four times a week. This will ensure your child develops their reading skills at a good rate and keeps up with the National Curriculum expectations.

Don't stop reading to your child as they move through school. Children love to listen to stories no matter what their age and it is such a wonderful way to spend time with your child especially before they go to bed as it will calm them and help them to switch off from the day and take them to wonderful new places. You can choose books that they cannot yet read for themselves which will contain lots of new language to build their vocabulary, which they will then use when they are talking to others and in their writing too.

Writing

Learning to write is a complex process involving the acquisition and refinement of many different skills. One of the ways you can help your child as they learn to write is to support them to learn to spell.

At Wychwood, we follow the Read, Write, Inc. phonics programme which is then followed by their spelling programme when the children are ready (normally in Year 2). When they begin the spelling programme, your child will come home with a spelling logbook which explains the spelling pattern that the children are learning each week.

Each week begins with a 'speed spell' where the children have to spell a selection of words that follow the pattern that was taught the previous week as well as some words from the statutory word list for their year group. The children then record any words they misspelled in their logbook so that they can look at these again at home.

Later in the week, the children will have an opportunity to record any words from that week that they feel they need to practise at home. You can then support your child to review these words before the next 'speed spell' the following week.

Maths

Homework for maths will focus on building fluency of recall of Key Instant Recall Facts (KIRFs) such as number bonds and multiplication and division facts. Being able to recall these number facts fluently can greatly increase a child's capacity to carry out more complex calculations and problem solving tasks and so enables them to make better progress as they move through the school.

The Education Endowment Fund found that homework involving digital technology typically have greater impact (+ 6 months) than other types of homework and so we have invested in online platforms called NumBots and Times Table Rock Stars to provide our maths homework. These online programs provide immediate feedback for pupils, essential to move their learning on and both programs are designed to motivate young children. We have found that when children engage with these regularly at home, they make accelerated progress and report greater enjoyment of maths.

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The wider curriculum

Subject leads produce an annual newsletter for each subject which is shared with families and details the areas to be covered that year as well as ways you can engage with the learning at home and encourage a lifelong love for learning.

Expectations

Phase	Reading	Writing	Maths	Notes
FSU Reception	Reading with an adult daily for 10 minutes – banded book We also encourage reading to your child daily in addition to hearing them read. Parents can send messages or voice notes on SeeSaw when they have heard their child read, but this is not compulsory.	Handwriting booklets are available for children to practice their letter formation – this is not compulsory.	NumBots for 10 minutes – at least 3x week – this is not compulsory. This program is designed to build fluency with counting and key instant recall facts. Children who have played three times or more in a week will receive a house point.	
Key Stage 1 Year 1 and 2	Reading with an adult daily for 10 minutes – banded book We also encourage reading to your child daily in addition to hearing them read.	Regular practice of statutory spelling list words and of words containing the spelling pattern taught each week (using the spelling	NumBots for 10 minutes – at least 3x week This program is designed to build fluency with counting and key instant recall facts.	Your teacher may provide additional tasks to engage with at home to support work in areas such as phonics or handwriting as appropriate.

	Parents can send messages or voice notes on SeeSaw when they have heard their child read, but this is not compulsory.	logbook) – 3x week. Parents should sign each page of the logbook to confirm that their child has engaged with the spelling practice for that week.	Children who have played three times or more in a week will receive a house point. The class teacher will contact parents of any children who regularly fail to play for three times a week to find out how we can support the family to achieve this.	
Lower Key Stage 2 Year 3 and 4	Reading with an adult daily for 10 minutes – banded book or book of your child's choice if a free reader We also encourage reading to your child daily in addition to hearing them read. There is no requirement to record these reading sessions, but if you are finding it difficult to manage, please contact your child's	Regular practice of statutory spelling list words and of words containing the spelling pattern taught each week (using the spelling logbook) – 3x week Parents should sign each page of the logbook to confirm that their child has engaged with the spelling practice for that week.	NumBots and/or Times Table Rockstars – at least 3x week These programs are designed to build fluency with counting and key instant recall facts such as times tables. The class teacher will contact parents of any children who regularly fail to play for three times a week to find out how we can support	Your teacher may provide additional tasks to engage with at home to support work in areas such as phonics or handwriting as appropriate.

	teacher who will be happy to help.		the family to achieve this.	
Upper Key Stage 2 Year 5 and 6	Children are expected to read 15 minutes of their reading book each night; if children do not manage it one night, they should read extra pages on other nights. Children should read aloud to an adult during the week where possible to support their development of reading fluency and expression. As in earlier year groups, having stories read aloud to them should continue, further developing tone, intonation and expression as the text becomes more complex.	Regular practice of statutory spelling list words and of words containing the spelling pattern taught each week (using the spelling logbook) – 3x week Parents should sign each page of the logbook to confirm that their child has engaged with the spelling practice for that week.	Times Table Rockstars – at least 3x week This program is designed to build fluency with times tables facts and it is important that this is kept up, even when your child is confident in recalling them. The class teacher will contact parents of any children who regularly fail to play for three times a week to find out how we can support the family to achieve this.	Additional homework will be set for children in Year 6 in order to build good home learning habits ready for secondary school. These tasks will be communicated to both parents and children by teachers and children will receive feedback on their work.

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REVIEW:

The above information will be reviewed biannually by the Head Teacher and relevant Governor committee.

Created: January 2025

Due for review: January 2027