

# Whytemead Primary School

## Homework Policy

July 2016



Consultation with parents indicates that a consistent approach to homework is required at Whytemead Primary School. The school is of the opinion that homework is important since it reinforces and extends the teaching and learning that occurs during the day. Homework encourages parental involvement in children's learning and helps to develop independence. It is important however to remember and make it known to parents, that when a child has worked for a full day in school, he/she may not respond positively to having large amounts of homework.

**Our aims of providing homework are to:**

- ✓ Ensure a consistency of approach throughout the school
- ✓ Ensure progression towards independence and an individual responsibility
- ✓ Ensure the needs of the individual are taken into account
- ✓ Ensure that parents/carers understand our expectations of them
- ✓ Improve the quality of learning experiences offered to the children
- ✓ Extend and support learning
- ✓ Provide opportunities for parents, children and the school to work in partnership
- ✓ Provide opportunities for children and parents to share learning experiences
- ✓ Encourage children to develop long term strategies for future needs
- ✓ Prepare Year Six children for the secondary phase of education

All children are expected to read at least 5 times a week and record this in their 'Home / School Reading Books'. These reads will then count towards them moving up their reading chart in their classroom. They may read any book, not just a 'spot' book; it needs to be written in their Home / School book to count. Younger children may also listen to and talk about books; this would also need to be written in their Home / School book. Once you have reached the top of the reading chart, children receive a book to keep.

EYFS, Y1, Y2 - 10 reads gets you onto the next step of the chart.

Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6 - 15 reads gets you onto the next step of the chart.

**The table below gives the agreed amount of homework for children.**

Year Group	Reading / Spelling	Maths	Creative Homework
EYFS	Reading for 5-10 minutes at least 5 times a week.  Phonics sounds / high frequency words sent home.	Number packs for children and parents to select if they wish and take home to play together.	'Take your learning home task' once a term
Year 1/2	Reading for 5-10 minutes at least 5 times a week.  Spellings / Phonics sent home once a week.	Learn your times tables - Y1 10x table 5x table  Y2 2x table 3x table	'Take your learning home' task once every half term
Year 3/4	Reading for 10 minutes at least 5 times a week.  Spellings sent home once a week.	Learn your times tables - Y3 4x table 6x table 8x table  Y4 All times tables up to 12 x 12	'Take your learning home' task once every half term
Year 5/6	Reading for 10 minutes at least 5 times a week. Children should also write a review of the book that they have read in their Home / School book.  Spellings sent home once a week.	Weekly maths problem (differentiated according to ability)	'Take your learning home' task once every half term

For children to make the most progress reading, spelling and multiplication/division facts need to be practised nightly. The times are a guide and an indication of how long a child should spend intensively working on their homework. Children should be encouraged to discuss any problems they are having with their teacher. It is not acceptable for children to struggle excessively, causing upset at home. Obtaining parental support is of paramount importance.

**Creative Homework will be**

- ✓ Open-ended for the children to enable children to explore their own ideas.
- ✓ Interesting and relevant to the class topic.
- ✓ An opportunity for parents to support their children's learning in a fun way.

**What happens if my child does not do their homework?**

Reading and times table homework will support your child's learning and we would encourage you to practise this at home as much as possible. However, we understand that there are times that fitting homework in becomes difficult. If you are finding it difficult to manage homework with your son / daughter then please speak to your child's teacher.

We would encourage you to complete the reading homework regularly. If a child does not read at home for more than 1 week, we will speak to parents to find out why. Not reading at home will negatively impact your child's progress in reading.

In years 5 / 6 failure to complete homework will lead to a child being asked to stay in during a break time to complete it. If this happens 3 times consecutively, parents will be contacted.

Following these guidelines will help children to develop independence, realise their full potential and prepare them for the next stage in their education.

We have also attached a book list to inspire readers of all levels!

*Although there is no legal requirement to have a Homework Policy, the guidelines have been drawn up in line with recommendations.*

