



Walter Infant School and Nursery

‘To be the best I can be’

HOMEWORK POLICY

DOCUMENT HISTORY

Version	Action	By	Date
1.0	Approved	Full Governing Body	11th July 2017
2.0	Approved	Full Governing Body	17 th September 2020

Next Review Date: September 2022

What is homework?

Homework is anything that children do outside the normal school day that contributes to the learning in response to guidance from school. Homework encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents to support children's learning; for example, a parent who spends time reading a story to their child before bedtime is helping with homework.

Homework should not be a chore and should not get in the way of other activities that children may do after school. The homework that we expect to be carried out will not require any special teaching skills but will be an expansion of skills already taught in school.

There is no formal mathematics homework set in school; however, children are encouraged to visit the Active Learn website through our school learning platform to access games and activities that directly match the objectives being taught in school. New games are added regularly and are excellent resources for reinforcing concepts and allowing children opportunities to practise mathematics at home. We use Phonics Play at school to support the teaching of phonics; this can also be accessed from home on www.phonicsplay.co.uk

Why do we want to set homework?

- It develops organisational skills (remembering to take it home and return on time)
- It develops resilience and encourages a "have a go" culture
- It allows the children to develop pride in their independent work
- It promotes and supports good behaviours for learning

It should be noted that homework can be set in many different forms with many different expectations and outcomes. It is important to remember that when setting homework there are a number of points to consider:

- The nature and type of homework changes throughout a pupil's school career
- Homework should not cause undue stress on the pupil, family or the teacher
- Reading will be the major element to homework at Walter Infant School
- The homework we set at Walter Infant School will take into consideration the child's attainment levels and any additional learning needs including Special Education Needs (SEN)
- Homework should be set regularly from the Foundation Stage to Year 2

Occasionally we may ask children to take homework that they have started in school when we believe that they may benefit from spending further time on it.

Our aims

- To ensure that parents are clear about what their child is expected to do
- To ensure consistency of approach throughout the school

- To use homework as a tool to help to continue to raise standards of attainment
- To improve the quality of the learning experience offered to pupils and to extend it beyond the classroom environment
- To provide opportunities for parents, children and the school to work together in partnership in relation to children's learning
- To encourage pupils and their parents to share and enjoy learning experiences
- To reinforce work covered in class by providing further opportunities for the individual pupil
- To practise or consolidate basic skills and knowledge, especially in English and Mathematics
- To compensate for the children who do not have the opportunity to complete homework and to facilitate opportunities for the children to read or practise skills in school where required (using reading volunteers and Learning Support Assistants). Children will never be penalised for not completing homework as we may not be aware of the circumstances at home.

Homework in Key Stage 1

We expect that every child will:

- Read and discuss a fiction or non-fiction book suitable for their age and ability for a minimum of four days a week
- Learn spellings or key words for a weekly spelling test which will take place on a Friday morning
- Learn and practise counting patterns and number facts to support their learning in the classroom, appropriate to age and starting points
- Organise their books and equipment to take to and from school

We expect every adult to support his or her child by:

- Taking the time to carry out the tasks, asking questions thereby promoting the vital speaking and listening elements of the National Curriculum 2014
- Showing an interest in and encouraging their child to carry out the tasks
- Praising effort and tasks well done
- Signing the reading diary every day for those children with reading diaries and sharing information, concerns or by asking questions
- Contacting the teacher if there are any specific problems relating to the tasks
- Challenging their children to ensure that presentation, spelling and punctuation are given due consideration in written work

We expect teachers will:

- Provide parents with an outline of the learning intended to be undertaken during the term, to include any key vocabulary/ number facts
- Provide children with the opportunities to change books regularly
- Mark and report results of tests to inform the child and parents/carers of achievement
- Keep a record of test results to monitor progress

Homework in Foundation Stage

- Reading with an adult for approximately 10 minutes each school day. Remember to sign the reading diary.
- Learning number names and matching them to quantities to 10
- Rehearsing 2d shape names for square rectangle, oblong rectangle, triangle and circle
- To practise counting objects and actions up to twenty
- School toy diary: sometimes children will bring home a class toy for an evening or the weekend, please support your child by helping them to make a comment.

Small homework tasks and projects to enhance the children's learning in school

Occasionally, we may ask the children to produce a piece of work at home which relates to a topic we will be learning about at school, such as Famous People. We may also ask children to bring in artefacts or to conduct research to support the curriculum, such as weather observations or food diaries.

Monitoring and Review

It is the responsibility of our governing body to agree and monitor the school homework policy.

This policy should be read alongside our Curriculum Policy