

WOOD END FIRST SCHOOL

HOMEWORK POLICY

Introduction

Wood End First School places a great deal of importance on the partnership between home and school. We recognise that before children come to school parents have laid the foundation for their children's learning and behaviour. During each child's time at Wood End we would like the partnership between school and parents to grow and develop. The home school agreement that exists is the basis on which we can all support and develop each child's potential. An important part of that agreement is that the school will:

“provide homework according to the homework policy”

Parents will-

“Support their child with homework”

It is noted in the 1996/97 Annual OfSTED report that-

“Homework is important at all stages in a child's education”

The Purpose of Homework

- To develop the partnership between the school and parents or carers;
- Consolidating and reinforcing skills and understanding particularly in literacy and numeracy;
- Extending school learning;
- Encouraging pupils to develop the confidence and self disciplined needed to study at home.

Type and amount of Homework

Reception children 1 hour each week eg 3 x 20 minute sessions
Year 1 children 1 hour 20mins. each week eg 4 x 20 minute sessions
Year 2 children 1 hour 20mins. each week eg 4 x 20 minute sessions
Year 3 children 1 hour 40mins. each week eg 5 x 20 minute sessions

This time should largely consist of regular reading with parents or carers. This could either be children reading their school reading book to an adult or the adult reading the book to the child or the child and adult sharing a school reading book or library book. The children have free choice of library books and therefore most of these will need to be adult led. For fluent readers the reading time may be spent with the child reading some or all of the book (depending on the length) alone and the adult then talking to the child about the book. For all children it is important for adults to talk about the books with the children and ask questions to ascertain their understanding.

In addition to reading, children have sight vocabulary words to learn that are taken from the National Literacy Strategy. Each child will have a bookmark with the words that they should be practising. On the back of some of the bookmarks are ideas of games and activities in which the learning can be made more fun.

Children who are ready will each week be given spellings to learn for their class spelling tests. These also require practice. Each week we recommend that children also take part in a mathematical activity at home. This could be for Year 3 children beginning to learn their times tables. A valuable activity with all children in the playing of games particularly those that involve a dice and counting. Alliteratively at weekends or when time allows a mathematical activity could be helping to make some cakes and weighing out the ingredients.

Summary of Homework at Wood End First School

- Sharing/reading school reading books or library books
- Sight vocabulary words using games
- Spellings
- Times tables, number game or a practical mathematics activity

The school's Commitment to Homework

The staff at Wood End will ensure that children have the homework stated in this policy.

- Children will regularly have the opportunity to change their home/school reading book.
- Children will weekly visit the library and have the opportunity to choose a library book to keep for the week.
- Children will have a book mark with their sight vocabulary words to learn and these will be changed regularly as the child learns them.
- Those children who are ready will have spellings to learn.

Parents Commitment to Homework

It has to be the responsibility of parents to organise when children should sit quietly and complete their homework. Much depends on the parents and child's commitments each week. Some may prefer to do much of the work at the weekend. It is however, important to remember that young children find it easier to concentrate in small units of time. We recommend that a maximum of 20 minutes is spent at one time. If parents require advice or help in organising the work or would like suggestions for activities please see their class teacher who would be glad to help. We would ask that parents:

- Provide a reasonably peaceful suitable place for the child to do their homework;
- Show their child that they value homework and feel that it is important;
- Encourage their children by helping them to organise their work and praise them when they have completed the work.
- Sign their child's reading booklet when they have read their book and make comments where necessary.

Conclusion

Research shows that children who take part in homework activities and are supported at home with these activities make more progress. Wood End school places a lot of importance on learning in the home environment and values the time that parents spend with their children. Please support us and your child by supporting the school's homework policy.

March 2000

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