

Wellington Junior School

Homework Policy - Guidance for Parents

The Purpose of Homework

Regular homework is important because it helps our pupils to:

- practise, reinforce and consolidate what they have learned in class
- prepare for work to be undertaken in class in the future
- take responsibility for organising their own time and work
- become independent learners and undertake individual research
- challenge and raise their expectations
- raise the standard of their academic achievements
- consolidate and develop classwork

Regular homework also gives you, the parents, the opportunity to be aware of the work your children are doing in school and encourages you to be involved with your child's work and to support their learning. All homework will help pupils improve by allowing teachers to monitor each pupil's progression and set homework tasks appropriate to their individual needs.

Parents are asked to check the homework diary, or in exceptional circumstances, an email, to ensure that their child is aware of the expectations. They are also asked to set aside a time and place that is suitable for the child to work properly and are also asked to praise their child's efforts, even if there is not total success.

N.B. If you feel that your child is having difficulty, with content or with time, stop your child at an appropriate point and send a note of explanation to the teacher so that help and guidance can be given. Please sign all appropriate work: worksheets, reading cards, homework diaries etc. to indicate that your child has made the best possible effort with your encouragement.

Expectations of Children

- Children must record homework in their homework diary as soon as it is given to them and should try to set aside a regular time each evening for homework.
- In most cases (usually P3-P6), children are given homework for the week on a Monday and are encouraged to manage time spent on homework each evening depending on other commitments.
- Children must ensure that they do their homework in an environment which allows them to concentrate and focus.
- Children should endeavour to complete all homework to the highest possible standard they can.
- Children should always meet homework deadlines.

How much time should be spent on homework?

Primary 1

Homework set by the class teacher should take about ten to fifteen minutes to complete and will normally be set for four nights of the week. In the first part of the year the main focus will be literacy and parents are required to be involved to ensure the success of this. As the year progresses, literacy will remain a major part as reading work be a requirement on many evenings, but Maths work may also be set, often in worksheet format.

Primary 2

Homework at this stage should take about fifteen to twenty minutes to complete. Work based on the reading will programme will be set regularly, and parents are needed to be the audience or the assistant. Other aspects of literacy such as learning spelling words, and short written activities may also be planned. Memory tasks, and in particular number bonds, will feature throughout the year and worksheets to consolidate maths learning will also be set.

Primary 3

Homework in Primary 3 should take between twenty and thirty minutes to complete. Reading and spelling homework will be regular requirements. Other literacy activities will include preparation of a plan for a written task, preparation of a talk to the class, or a book review. Memory tasks such as poetry or multiplication tables will feature throughout the year, and worksheets to consolidate maths learning will also be set.

an extended homework project that will run over a number of weeks. Deadlines for each specific piece of work of the extended project will be clearly given by the class teacher.

Marking of homework

Children's homework will, in usual circumstances, be marked and commented on within the following timescales:

P1 and P2: 1 - 2 days

P3 and P4: 3 - 4 days

P5 and P6: 3 - 4 days

How can you help?

Showing an interest

The most important thing any parent or guardian can do is to show an interest in your children's homework. Check their homework diaries every day to see when they have homework and when it is due. Encourage your children to do homework on the night they receive it and discuss it with them.

Make it clear to your child that you as a parent or guardian value homework and support the school in its efforts to help your child do well and improve their learning.

Praise and encourage your child when they have finished their tasks.



Checking Homework

Parents can look over the work their children have done and offer ideas and advice. Obviously parents should not do their children's homework for them, but can always offer advice and assistance to help the child to overcome difficulties. Do not give the child the answer, but ask them questions which may help to lead them to the answer.

We would appreciate your support in ensuring that your child completes all homework, to a high standard, and submits this on time to his/her class teacher. Mr Cox will carry out regular checks on homework diaries to ensure that these are being completed satisfactorily by pupils.

Problems

If any pupil is spending a disproportionate amount of time on homework or is having difficulties in organising and planning homework, he/she should feel free to speak with their Class Teacher about this.

Contacts

If you would like any further advice or assistance or wish to discuss any aspect of homework, please contact Mr Cox.

J. A. Cox
January 2017

