



Homework

Dear Parents / Carers,

As a school, we regularly evaluate different aspects of school life to ensure everything we do best supports the learning and the wellbeing of the children at Westacre. With this in mind, we have been reviewing current practises and expectations for homework and sought parental feedback during the spring term Pupil Learning Discussions. The following proposals were shared, which are based on discussions we have already had with pupils and staff in school:

- ✓ A continued focus on Reading with the expectations being reading at home at least five times per week. We are aware that different children read different types and styles of books, so specifying exactly how many pages to be read is difficult. However, guidance available on our website does state that children should aim to read five times per week with each session of reading lasting at least ten minutes.
- ✓ Years 5 & 6 to be given weekly homework tasks that provide opportunities to learn, recall, embed and apply knowledge of all times tables using the Times Table Rockstars website. Our most able mathematicians will be set more challenging weekly homework via their My Maths online logins. In addition, gold, silver and bronze level maths challenges will also be posted on the school website half-termly. These challenges will be designed to engage higher attaining pupils in deeper maths learning, encouraging systematic working and allowing the freedom to explore their own avenues of investigation into number patterns.
- ✓ All year groups to have a weekly spelling list to practise in preparation for their weekly spelling test. The tests will be used to track progress and to ensure that children are learning spellings which provide the right level of challenge.
- ✓ In preparation for high school homework expectations, Year 7 to receive one weekly piece of homework on a rota system from any of the National Curriculum subjects. We will ensure that pupils in Year 7 receive an appropriate level and amount of weekly homework, involving all areas of the National Curriculum, throughout the year.
- ✓ All year groups to continue with the termly wider curriculum homework projects, giving children the opportunity to choose a task from all of the National Curriculum subjects. These continue to be very popular with the children and result in a fantastic range of work being produced.
- ✓ A new 'Homework' tab setting up on the school website that will provide a range of guidance, suggestions and website links for parents who would like for their children to have more learning opportunities outside of school. This was a very popular suggestion with parents and the tab has now been set up on our school website.

As a result of the generally positive feedback to these proposals, we can confirm that these are the new expectations of homework here at Westacre.

We do recognise that a small number of parents shared a query about the new proposals. If they still want to discuss this further, they are welcome to call school for a phone conversation.

Thank you as always to everyone who offered their valuable feedback and to all of our parents for your ongoing support and partnership,

Best wishes,

Mrs Evans
Headteacher