



Dear Parents and Carers,

Following consultations with pupils, parents and staff during the spring term of 2020, we wrote to parents outlining our new homework expectations in March 2020. During some pupil voice discussions recently, I have become aware of some confusion regarding our current homework procedures, so am writing to you today to reiterate the following:

- ✓ To promote a continued focus on Reading, all children are expected to read at home at least five times per week and record each occasion in their Learning Journal. 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.
- ✓ Year 5 & 6 children are set weekly homework tasks that provide opportunities to learn, recall, embed and apply knowledge of all times tables using the Times Table Rockstars website at <https://ttrockstars.com/>. As a general rule, children need to practise their times tables on TTRs for an average of 5 minutes a day. This is logged automatically and their class teacher can see when they went on and for how long. It also works out the average automatically. The children can see this information, so they can keep a track of what their average is. If your child is confident with their tables up to 12 x 12, there is the option to add more; please speak to your class teacher to alter this. 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.
- ✓ Year 7 children are set weekly Maths homework using the MyMaths website at <https://www.mymaths.co.uk/>. Tasks set will link as much as possible to learning in class and children will receive immediate feedback on the work they submit.
- ✓ Children need to practise their spellings on the Spelling Frame website at <https://spellingframe.co.uk/> for an average of 5-10 minutes a day. This should equate to around 1000 points per week. The children can track their spelling points online, so they know how many they are on.
- ✓ In preparation for high school homework expectations, Year 7 children receive one extra 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. This homework is now set and submitted via Microsoft Teams.
- ✓ All year groups receive 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. From now on, these projects will include the option of submitting work via Microsoft Teams.

A new 'Homework' tab was set up on the school website last year that provides 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 can be found at <https://www.westacre-middle-school.co.uk/homework-3/>. Here parents will also find the following summary of our homework expectations:

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Westacre Middle School
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Homework Guidance

2021

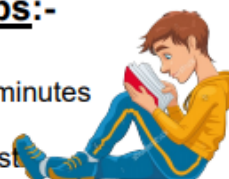


Homework set in a typical week in all year groups:-



Reading - 5 times a week, preferably reading aloud for around 10 minutes

Spellings - practise each week in preparation for a weekly test



Additional homework set in a typical week in Years 5&6:-

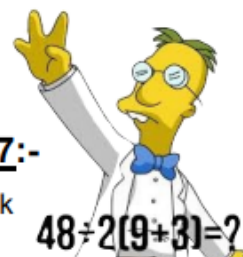
Times Tables Rockstars -

children to login and practise times tables each week



Additional homework set in a typical week in Year 7:-

My Maths - children to login and complete set tasks each week



Subject based - one piece of homework per week
on a rota from any of the National Curriculum subjects

As a school, we feel these homework expectations support the ranging needs of our children and take into account the many other demands on our parents at home. We have also considered the latest educational research on homework for primary school children, including evidence from the Education Endowment Foundation who in 2020 confirmed that homework is most effective if routinely set to target short and focussed areas of learning. In order to promote this positive impact on learning, class teachers in school will continue to encourage, praise and reward those children who successfully complete their homework on a regular basis. As you would expect, it will also be part of teachers' responsibilities to have discussions with children and / or parents when our homework expectations are not being met.

If we can be of any further assistance regarding homework, including the re-sharing of any pupil log in information, we would ask parents to make contact with us.

Kind regards,

Paul Barber

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