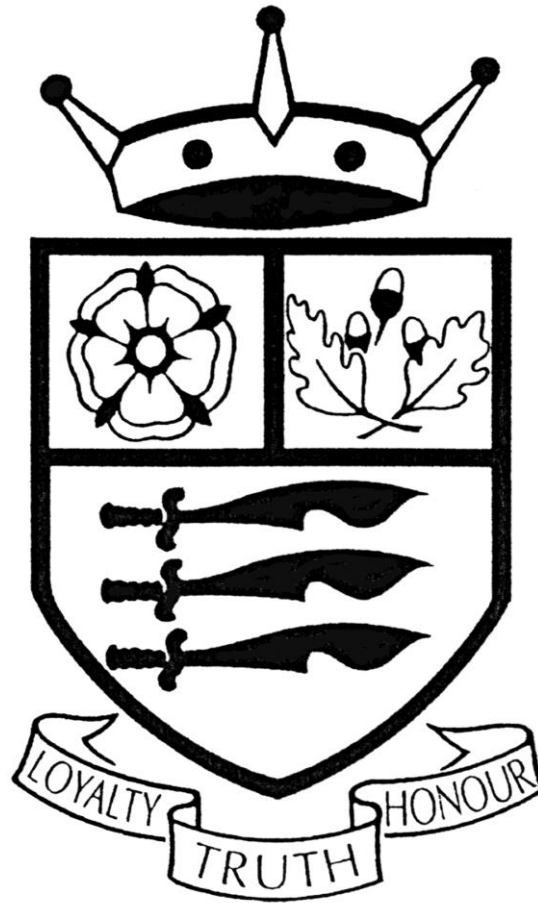


West Lodge Primary School



Homework Policy

October 2013

Rationale

We believe homework consolidates and reinforces skills and understanding in Mathematics, Literacy and other curriculum areas. It also helps raise the level of achievement of individual pupils, provides opportunities for parents and children to work together, thereby fostering an effective partnership between home and school.

We value the support of parents/carers and we believe that this policy will be successful if there is a strong partnership between home and school which is reflected in the Home-School Agreement.

We recognise that all children need leisure time and hope that our policy reflects a balance so children can extend and consolidate their learning with parental support while still allowing 'down time.'

At West Lodge we believe parents, carers and other family members can and do make a real difference to children's education. When parents and schools work together, children do better.

We are keen that standards expected in school are maintained at home and that if possible children have somewhere quiet, away from distractions, to do their homework.

Aims

- Ensure that parents are clear about what their child is expected to do.
- To ensure a whole school consistent approach to homework and to make homework manageable for all concerned.
- Improve the quality of the learning experience offered to pupils and to extend it beyond the classroom environment.
- To consolidate and reinforce learning done in school and assist in preparation for future class work.
- To enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development.
- To help pupils develop the skills of an independent learner, develop good work habits and self discipline for their learning journey into high school.
- To encourage skills and attitudes which help children improve their educational performance.
- To provide a context for pupil/parent interaction.
- To promote a partnership between home and school in supporting every child's learning by enabling parents to have a direct insight into their child's school work.

The Nature of Homework

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:-

1. The nature and type of homework changes throughout a pupils school career.
2. Amount and frequency of homework should increase as a pupil gets older.
3. Homework should not cause undue stress on the pupil, family or the teacher.
4. It will not necessarily come in the form of a written task.
5. Homework will be set regularly from the Foundation Stage to Year 6.

Role of the Class Teacher

- To provide an explanation of homework tasks to parents when necessary and give guidance of how they might assist their child. This may be done by a note with the work or in the diary, at a parents' meeting or at an open evening.
- To set up regular homework in an easily followed routine.
- To ensure that homework is set consistently across classes.
- To set homework that is differentiated, so that all children can access the work at their level.
- To ensure any homework is purposeful and links directly to the taught curriculum.
- To reward and praise children who regularly complete homework tasks and produce work of a high standard.
- To mark homework and give verbal or written feedback to pupils before it is handed back to pupils.

Role of the Head teacher and Governing Body

- To check compliance of the Policy.
- To ensure parents understand and support the policy.
- To discuss with staff how far the policy is being successfully implemented.
- Inform new parents to the school so that they are aware of the home/school agreement and what it entails.

Role of Parents/Carers

- To sign a home school agreement dealing with homework when children start in Reception and to revisit this when the children reach Year 4.
- To support the school by ensuring that their child attempts the homework.
- To provide a suitable place for their child to carry out their homework.
- To encourage and praise their child when they have completed their homework.
- To become actively involved and provide appropriate support for their child with homework activities.
- To make it clear that they value homework and they support the school by explaining how it can help learning.

At West Lodge Primary School we are very keen for parents to support and help their children with homework. We take the view that children are likely to get more out of an activity if parents get involved as long as they do not take over too much. However, there are times when we will want to see what children can do on their own. It is particularly important, as they get older, for children to become increasingly independent in their learning.

If a parent is unsure about what their role should be, they should discuss it with their child's teacher.

If a child is absent for a length of time e.g. with a broken leg, the teacher and the parent will agree what should be done, how it should be marked and what sort of help needs to be given. It is not possible to give homework when parents take holidays in term time.

Parents/Carers who have queries about homework should not hesitate to make an appointment to see their child's class teacher or year group leader.

There is continuity across the school and consistency within the phases. See attached documents for more details of the requirements within each year group.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION.

- The Class Teacher will be responsible for regularly monitoring homework.
- The Leadership Team will monitor the frequency, standard and marking of pupils' homework on a regular basis through book and planning scrutiny.

REVIEW

Date of policy- October 2013

Review – October 2014

Homework Information for Year 1

Homework Challenge Sheet:

Children in Year 1 receive a homework challenge sheet at the beginning of each half term. The challenges can be completed in any order, unless specified, and should be seen as enjoyable activities for you to carry out with your child rather than onerous tasks. Although there is no legal requirement for Year 1 children to complete homework, we strongly believe that discussion and fun activity related to school based topics benefit all children by consolidating what they have learnt in school.

The first column contains the tasks and the extension activities. The extension activities are for children who would like to do a little bit more work linked to the topic. The second column in the table is for you to comment on the activity. It may be to describe how your child/you found the activity and also to share any problems or difficulties that were faced. The third column is where the class teacher will comment on the work as opposed to writing on the child's work itself.

Reading at home:

Please encourage your child to read their basket book at least five times a week. They can change their books as often as they need to. Please indicate in the Record Book that your child has read with you and any comments you wish to share.

Key Ring Words:

Please encourage your child to practise reading their words. These are the High Frequency words for Year 1 and do not need to be spelt. The Class Teacher will check the words once a week and give more cards if appropriate. If your child is reading all the words on the cards confidently they might write fun sentences that include one of the words. These do not need to be brought into school.

Spellings:

After the October half term the children will begin to bring home spellings. These will be related to their Letters and Sounds / phonics activity. This is an opportunity for the children to become used to learning spellings at home although we will not be testing any spellings until after Christmas. In the Spring Term we will include a short spelling test once a week.

Frontier and Athletics:

Please do have a look at the Year 1 Frontier page. This will show the Star of Week for each class and gives the opportunity for the children to participate in the forum. The Homework challenges are also available to view here. After the spring half term the children will be allocated Athletics passwords to enable them to participate in online challenges.

Homework Information for Year 2

Children in Year 2 have one homework book to complete homework tasks in. Generally homework should be completed in these books.

Please feel free to support your child with their homework tasks, but the majority of the work must be their own. You can record in the homework books any useful feedback about how they found the task.

Homework Challenges

Each half term children are given a set of Homework Challenges, they are encouraged to do one per week. The challenges are tasks related to the topics being covered in class. The challenges can be written, oral, practical or creative. There is space on the challenge sheet for parents to record how their child has got on with the task. The children can do them in any order and there is the option to do some of them on Fronter.

Maths Homework

Activities give children an opportunity to consolidate and reinforce the areas covered that week in the lessons. Where appropriate these activities are differentiated. Where appropriate teachers give advice on strategies that have been used in class that week. Children may also be assigned a Mathematics activity related to the work done that week.

Online Homework

Some homework tasks may be set using Fronter or Mathematics, if your child has a problem completing an online activity due to an Internet issue, please write a note to the class teacher.

Homework Timetable

The following homework timetable applies to **Year 2**

<u>Day</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Date due</u>
Friday	Maths	Wednesday
Half termly	Homework challenge	Wednesday
Friday	Spellings	Wednesday

Upkeep of Books

To ensure that school diaries and homework books are looked after throughout the year, you may like to cover books with sticky backed plastic. This ensures that the books stay in a good condition when they are constantly in and out of school bags.

Reading

Children bring home 2 books appropriate to their level of reading they are expected to read at home. Their guided reading book they have read with their teacher and an individual basket book which they have chosen themselves. All children have a reading record which school adults will write in when they have read with your child. We would encourage you to read with your child five times a week. When hearing your child read, please write a short comment to show how they read that day.

Spelling

Children are given spelling lists to learn and practise. Words are related to the Letters and Sounds / phonics activity or can be topic based words.

Homework Policy

The West Lodge Primary School Homework Policy is available to view on the school website.

www.westlodge.harrow.sch.uk

Homework Information for Year 3

Diaries

Children in Years 3 are also provided with a homework diary at the beginning of the Autumn term. This is used as a means of communication between home and school. Each time homework is set, a brief explanation of the task will be written in the homework diary along with the date that it should be completed by.

At the end of the week, we ask parents to sign the relevant page in the diary in order to check that all homework tasks are being completed. The class teacher will then sign the homework diaries on a Friday.

At times, class teachers may write a note home in the homework diary, so it is important that you check it on a regular basis. Similarly if you would like to write a note to your child's class teacher, please feel free to write it in the homework diary.

Letters

Letters are generally sent home (via ParentMail or a paper copy) on a Friday.

Homework Requirements

Children in Year 3 have one homework book to complete homework tasks in. Generally homework should be completed in these books.

Please feel free to support your child with their homework tasks, but the majority of the work must be their own. You can record in the homework books any useful feedback about how they found the task.

Homework Challenges

Each half term children are given a set of Homework Challenges, they are encouraged to do one per week. The challenges are tasks related to the topics being covered in class. The challenges can be written, oral, practical or creative. There is space on the challenge sheet for parents to record how their child has got on with the task. The children can do them in any order and there is the option to do some of them on Fronter.

Maths Homework

Activities give children an opportunity to consolidate and reinforce the areas covered that week in the lessons. Where appropriate these activities are differentiated. Children may also be assigned a Mathematics activity related to the work done that week.

Online Homework

Some homework tasks may be set using Fronter or Mathematics, if your child has a problem completing an online activity due to an Internet issue, please write a note to the class teacher.

Homework Timetable

The following homework timetable applies to Year 3

<u>Day</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Date due</u>
Friday	Maths	Wednesday
Half termly	Homework challenge	Wednesday
Tuesday	Spellings	Monday

Upkeep of Books

To ensure that school diaries and homework books are looked after throughout the year, you may like to cover books with sticky backed plastic. This ensures that the books stay in a good condition when they are constantly in and out of school bags.

Reading

Children bring home 2 books appropriate to their level of reading they are expected to read at home. Their guided reading book they have read with their teacher and an individual basket book which they have chosen themselves.

All children have a reading record which school adults will write in when they have read with your child. We would encourage you to read with your child five times a week. When hearing your child read, please write a short comment to show how they read that day.

Spelling

Children are given spelling lists to learn and practise. Words are related to phonics activity or can be topic based words.

Homework Policy

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Homework Information for Year 4

Diaries

Children in Years 4, 5 and 6 will be provided with a homework diary at the beginning of the Autumn term. This is used as a means of communication between home and school. Each time homework is set, a brief explanation of the task will be written in the homework diary along with the date that it should be completed by.

At the end of the week, we ask parents to sign the relevant page in the diary in order to check that all homework tasks are being completed. The class teacher will then sign the homework diaries on a Monday.

At times, class teachers may write a note home in the homework diary, so it is important that you check it on a regular basis. Similarly if you would like to write a note to your child's class teacher, please feel free to write it in the homework diary.

Letters

Letters are generally sent home (via ParentMail or a paper copy) on a Friday.

Homework Requirements

In order to promote independent learning and in preparation for high school, children are required to complete three homework tasks a week, in addition to spellings and reading. One Literacy, one Maths and one topic based piece. Each task set will be explained to the children and their understanding of the task confirmed. The children will be given at least two days to complete the tasks.

Homework is differentiated and children should be able to complete the task without parental support. Please do feel free to support your child with their tasks, but the majority of the work must be their own. Each homework task should take the following time:

Year 4 - 30 minutes

Year 5 - 45 minutes

Year 6 - 1 hour

The time taken may be slightly different on occasion, depending on the task, but if you find that your child is taking much longer than the required time to complete the task, please write a note in the homework diary to inform the class teacher. There is a column available in the homework diary to note how long your child spent on each piece of homework. Some children may choose to take more time to complete the homework, this is at their discretion.

Each child will be given homework books, one for Literacy, one for Maths and one for topic work. Most homework tasks should be completed in these books, unless otherwise stated by the class teacher. To help with the transition into Upper School, Literacy homework will only commence in the Spring Term. However, if children do not hand their homework in on time, they will be expected to hand it in the following day and will lose minutes from their privilege time on a Friday.

On the rare occasion that your child is unable to complete a homework task, please write a note in the homework diary to inform the teacher.

Online Homework

Some homework tasks may be set using Fronter or Mathletics, if your child has a problem completing an online activity due to an Internet issue, please write a note to the class teacher.

Homework Timetable

The following homework timetable applies to **Year 4**.

Reading for 15 minutes five times a week.

<u>Day</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Date due</u>
Monday	Maths	Wednesday
Wednesday	Literacy	Friday
Friday	Topic	Monday
Monday	Spellings	Monday

Upkeep of Books

To ensure that school diaries and homework books are looked after throughout the year, please ensure that all books are covered with sticky backed plastic at the beginning of the year. This ensures that the books stay in a good condition when they are constantly in and out of school bags.

Homework Club

Homework club, run by Mrs Haines, will take place on a Wednesday lunchtime from 1pm—1.30pm in Aquamarine classroom. Children who require further guidance with a homework task are free to attend.

Reading Records

All children will be given a new reading record in order for their home reading to be recorded. Please read with your child 5 times per week and sign their reading record each time. Reading records will also be signed by class teachers on a Monday.

Homework Policy

The West Lodge Primary School Homework Policy is available to view on the school website.

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Homework Information for Year 5

Diaries

Children in Years 4, 5 and 6 will be provided with a homework diary at the beginning of the Autumn term. This is used as a means of communication between home and school. Each time homework is set, a brief explanation of the task will be written in the homework diary along with the date that it should be completed by.

At the end of the week, we ask parents to sign the relevant page in the diary in order to check that all homework tasks are being completed. The class teacher will then sign the homework diaries on a Monday.

At times, class teachers may write a note home in the homework diary, so it is important that you check it on a regular basis. Similarly if you would like to write a note to your child's class teacher, please feel free to write it in the homework diary.

Letters

Letters are generally sent home (via ParentMail or a paper copy) on a Friday.

Homework Requirements

In order to promote independent learning and in preparation for high school, children are required to complete three homework tasks a week, in addition to spellings and reading. One Literacy, one Maths and one topic based piece. Each task set will be explained to the children and their understanding of the task confirmed. The children will be given at least two days to complete the tasks.

Homework is differentiated and children should be able to complete the task without parental support. Please do feel free to support your child with their tasks, but the majority of the work must be their own.

Each homework task should take the following time:

Year 4 - 30 minutes

Year 5 - 45 minutes

Year 6 - 1 hour

The time taken may be slightly different on occasion, depending on the task, but if you find that your child is taking much longer than the required time to complete the task, please write a note in the homework diary to inform the class teacher. There is a column available in the homework diary to note how long your child spent on each piece of homework. Some children may choose to take more time to complete the homework, this is at their discretion.

Each child will be given homework books, one for Literacy, one for Maths and one for topic work. Most homework tasks should be completed in these books, unless otherwise stated by the class teacher.

If children do not hand their homework in on time, they will be expected to hand it in the following day and will lose minutes from their privilege time on a Friday.

On the rare occasion that your child is unable to complete a homework task, please write a note in the homework diary to inform the teacher.

Online Homework

Some homework tasks may be set using Fronter or Mathletics, if your child has a problem completing an online activity due to an Internet issue, please write a note to the class teacher.

Homework Timetable

The following homework timetable applies to **Year 5**.

Reading for 15 minutes - five times a week.

<u>Day</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Date due</u>
Monday	Maths	Wednesday
Wednesday	Literacy	Friday
Friday	Topic	Monday
Thursday	Spellings	Thursday

Upkeep of Books

To ensure that school diaries and homework books are looked after throughout the year, please ensure that all books are covered with sticky backed plastic at the beginning of the year. This ensures that the books stay in a good condition when they are constantly in and out of school bags.

Homework Club

Homework club, run by Mrs Haines, will take place on a Wednesday lunchtime from 1pm—1.30pm in Aquamarine classroom. Children who require further guidance with a homework task are free to attend.

Reading Records

Identified children will be given a new reading record in order for their home reading to be recorded. When hearing your child read, please write a short comment to show how they read that day. Reading records will also be signed by class teachers on a Monday.

Homework Policy

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Homework Information for Year 6

Diaries

Children in Years 4, 5 and 6 will be provided with a homework diary at the beginning of the Autumn term. This is used as a means of communication between home and school. Each time homework is set, a brief explanation of the task will be written in the homework diary along with the date that it should be completed by.

At the end of the week, we ask parents to sign the relevant page in the diary in order to check that all homework tasks are being completed. The class teacher will then sign the homework diaries on a Monday.

At times, class teachers may write a note home in the homework diary, so it is important that you check it on a regular basis. Similarly if you would like to write a note to your child's class teacher, please feel free to write it in the homework diary.

Letters

Letters are generally sent home (via ParentMail or a paper copy) on a Friday.

Homework Requirements

In order to promote independent learning and in preparation for high school, children are required to complete three homework tasks a week, in addition to spellings and reading. One Literacy, one Maths and one topic based piece. Each task set will be explained to the children and their understanding of the task confirmed. The children will be given at least two days to complete the tasks.

Homework is differentiated and children should be able to complete the task without parental support. Please do feel free to support your child with their tasks, but the majority of the work must be their own.

Each homework task should take the following time:

Year 4 - 30 minutes

Year 5 - 45 minutes

Year 6 - 1 hour

The time taken may be slightly different on occasion, depending on the task, but if you find that your child is taking much longer than the required time to complete the task, please write a note in the homework diary to inform the class teacher. There is a column available in the homework diary to note how long your child spent on each piece of homework. Some children may choose to take more time to complete the homework, this is at their discretion.

Each child will be given homework books, one for Literacy, one for Maths and one for topic work. Most homework tasks should be completed in these books, unless otherwise stated by the class teacher.

If children do not hand their homework in on time, they will be expected to hand it in the following day and will lose minutes from their privilege time on a Friday.

On the rare occasion that your child is unable to complete a homework task, please write a note in the homework diary to inform the teacher.

Online Homework

Some homework tasks may be set using Fronter or Mathletics, if your child has a problem completing an online activity due to an Internet issue, please write a note to the class teacher.

Homework Timetable

The following homework timetable applies to **Year 6**.

Reading for 15 minutes - five times a week.

<u>Day</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Date due</u>
Monday	Maths	Wednesday
Wednesday	Literacy	Friday
Friday	Topic	Monday
Thursday	Spellings	Thursday

Upkeep of Books

To ensure that school diaries and homework books are looked after throughout the year, please ensure that all books are covered with sticky backed plastic at the beginning of the year. This ensures that the books stay in a good condition when they are constantly in and out of school bags.

Homework Club

Homework club, run by Mrs Haines, will take place on a Wednesday lunchtime from 1pm—1.30pm in Aquamarine classroom. Children who require further guidance with a homework task are free to attend.

Reading Records

Identified children will be given a new reading record in order for their home reading to be recorded. When hearing your child read, please write a short comment to show how they read that day. Reading records will also be signed by class teachers on a Monday.

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