



10th September 2019

Home Learning (Homework)

Dear Parents/Carers

In the Autumn term 2018 our parent community were asked their opinion about homework at Worplesdon Primary School. One question was whether children receive appropriate homework for their age. There was a significant proportion of parents (22%) that neither agreed nor disagreed or whom disagreed with this statement.

For this reason the school council designed and distributed a pupil questionnaire where, on return, the key messages were:

- Only 28% of children enjoy homework with a further 39% sometimes enjoying their homework
- Project-based homework was the most enjoyable followed closely by maths/timetables.
- 64% felt that they should be reading daily or more than 3 times a week and 60% felt the same about timetables practise

When asked what type of homework they would prefer:

- 53% would choose to do project based homework where they are given opportunities to research and present findings/ideas/information in any chosen method including art work, computer generated, posters.
- 83% would choose activities that involve their parents including cooking, reading, going on adventures, den-building

With these facts in mind the School Council have considered relevant research and have worked with the school community to agree on the following:

Top education researchers tell us that homework has little impact for primary age pupils, unless it requires children to rehearse and practise (applicable to reading, times tables, number bonds). Other commentators are increasingly highlighting pressure on children and the need for them to enjoy their childhood, having a break from school work at home (safeguarding mental well-being). Therefore, at school we will use the term 'home learning' rather than homework. All learning should be fun rather than being perceived as 'hard work'.

Our home learning policies stipulates that:

- Reading regularly should be part of a child's routine
- Basic maths skills, such as number bonds, multiplication tables and number facts should be regularly practiced
- Spelling patterns, key words leading to grammar and punctuation rules should be regularly practiced, preferably in the context of sentence
- Children should take responsibility for their learning from an early age



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To encourage children to take responsibility for their own learning , to develop excitement about a range of subjects, and to encourage parents to engage in pupil learning, all children will have a half termly **Learning Passport from September 2019**.

The learning passport is a series of 20 suggested activities that are set at the beginning of each half term. The teachers will set an expectation as to the number of activities to complete (for example, to complete 5-8 activities) but it is pupil choice as to which activities are accomplished. The activities can be completed at any time during the half term (there is no weekly expectation for the activities within the learning passport), and can be completed independently, with other family members and/or with friends. The children can bring these activities in (or photographs) whenever they are completed and they will be shared and celebrated in class.

We are confident this new approach will allow our children to continue to develop their basic skills in maths and English as well as providing opportunity for a creative, collaborative approach to learning through the Learning Passports. As always, we would welcome feedback on our new Home Learning Policy so please do contact the school.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs L Bassett-Cross & the School Council Team