HOME LEARNING GUIDELINES (CURRICULUM)

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Introduction

At Whitegrove Primary School, we believe that home learning is anything that children do outside the school day that contributes to their learning. Home learning encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers, parents or the child themself to support learning.

Reasons for Home learning

Home learning is a very important part of a child's education and can add much to their development. The government made clear its commitment to home learning in the 1997 White Paper, "Excellence in Schools", where home learning was seen as an "essential part of a good education."

Time and resources available limit the experiences that any school can provide by itself and we, at Whitegrove Primary School, recognise the benefit that parents, families and teachers working together can provide to support learning. Children spend less than 14% of their year in school, thus home learning is essential for all our children. In addition, home learning is seen as an important way to establish a successful dialogue between parents and teachers. At Whitegrove we aim for children to become independent learners; we believe that carefully prepared home learning is one way in which the children can acquire this skill. Home learning supports our school values and is an intrinsic part of our 6Rs (Resourcefulness, Resilience, Reflectiveness, Risk-taking, Responsibility and Readiness)

Arguably the most important activity any adult can undertake with children is to talk and listen. Research clearly demonstrates the link between spoken languages, learning and cognitive development. Speaking and listening underpins learning, you cannot learn unless you can express and explore what is in front of you. Surveys show that the more children are talked to, the better they express themselves and the greater their achievements in later life.

Aims

- To enable children to make maximum progress in their academic and social development.
- To promote a partnership between home and school in supporting each child's learning.
- To develop the skills of an independent learner.
- To provide educational experiences not possible in school.
- To consolidate and reinforce learning done in school and to allow children to practise skills taught in lessons.
- To maintain a healthy balance between home learning and having sufficient free time to play, relax and develop other interests through outside clubs and groups.

How we organise home learning

At Whitegrove Primary we have developed a programme of home learning throughout the school to take into account all the children's abilities and interests. Each year group has weekly "core" tasks. In addition to these core tasks, home learning activities are sent to parents with ideas that they may choose to do to develop and extend their child's learning. Information to support parents can be found on our school website.

Termly curriculum newsletters are sent out to every year group at the start of the term.

Formal "worksheet" style activities are not regularly included and only used to reinforce learning done in school.

From time to time, an individual child may be asked to complete a class activity at home, if it has not been completed in the appropriate time at school.

Year Group Core Tasks - EYFS / KS1

EYFS:
3 x reading books with 5-10 minutes of reading with an adult daily
Maths consolidation – 15 minutes per week
Phonics consolidation – 15 minutes per week
Years 1:
Reading books changed 3 times a week with supplementary library books. Daily reading with an adult 10-15 minutes a day
Maths – 15 minutes per week activity to consolidate learning (may include online games or NUMBOTS)
English/Topic – 15 minutes per week which may include an oracy focus to prepare for in class learning
Year 2:
Daily reading with an adult – 15 minutes a day
Phonics – 15 minutes per week
Maths – 15 minutes per week

Year Group Core Tasks – KS2

Year 3:
Daily reading (some independent, some with adult) 15 minutes a day
Weekly spellings (10 per week) expected to be practised at least 3 times.
Sentence writing for spellings
Maths – no more than 30 minutes per week
Optional times table practise etc.
Year 4:
Daily reading 15 minutes a day (some with an adult)
20 differentiated spellings
SPAG or reading comprehension up to 30 minutes per week
Maths up to 30 minutes per week
TTRockstars 2 times a week

Year 5:
Daily reading 20 minutes a day (mostly independent, some with an adult)
SPaG or reading comprehension up to 30 minutes
Maths up to 30 minutes
Topic – as appropriate
Number fluency/TTRockstars – children to access regularly
Year 6: weekly
Daily reading, at least 20 minutes (once a week with an adult)
Maths up to 30 minutes – mostly CGP books
SPaG up to 30 minutes – mostly CGP books
Topic up to 30 minutes
Children have access to TTRockstars to practise as required

We recognise that children in Year 6 will need the experience of more formal 'homework' to prepare them for the routines of secondary education. The Year 6 teachers will, at their discretion, provide more of these opportunities when they believe it would directly support the pupils or the curriculum.

Other Home Learning Activities

Examples of these activities can be found on the school website.

The Role of the Parents

At Whitegrove, 'together we make learning irresistible'.

We consider parents a key part of that learning journey and recognise the role that parents can play in the education of their children. We would ask that parents encourage children to complete core home learning tasks promptly. We invite parents to support their child's learning by completing some of the extension activities suggested by class teachers and encourage discussion in the home about topics being covered in school. If possible, allow the children to access suggested websites in order to extend their learning and help the children in learning key skills, like memorising multiplication tables put to 12x12.

If parents have any questions regarding home learning they should, in the first instance, refer to the termly curriculum newsletter or contact the child's class teacher via the year group e-mail. If they have not achieved a satisfactory explanation, then they should contact the phase leader and then the headteacher via the school office for an appointment.

The Impact of Home learning on our Children

We feel that by adopting this policy our children should:

- Develop the skills of independent learning
  – Please refer to our 6R's document available on the school website.
- Have enough time to enjoy their childhood.
- Develop their speaking and listening skills, through discussion with parents.
- See home learning as a positive activity, rather than chore.

- Have the opportunity to extend and deepen their own learning in a way that interests them.
- Benefit from the positive dialogue between parents and school.