

Homework at Weston Green School

Our approach to homework is evidence-informed and shaped by feedback from our school community. Our aim is to provide purposeful and meaningful homework that supports learning, promotes independence and respects the importance of balance in children's lives.

Key Features of Our Homework Policy

1. Homework Schedule

- All homework tasks are assigned on Tuesdays and are due the following Monday.
- In Little Prep, home learning opportunities will be communicated via action points in Tapestry posts or from school reports and discussions around your child's learning will be suggested via Peek at the Week.
- In Reception, reading and handwriting tasks will be allocated depending on the readiness of your child.
- In Year 1 and Year 2, homework tasks will be directed via homework books.
- In Year 3, homework tasks will be listed via homework books or Google classroom.
- In Upper Prep, homework tasks will be communicated via Google classroom.
- Families can manage their time throughout the week with this more flexible arrangement, which, in turn, promotes independence and time-management skills for children as they progress through the Prep Phases.
- Bespoke / ad hoc tasks, including competition entries, Future Skills programme activities and event preparation, will be communicated separately, when applicable.

2. Purposeful and Impactful Tasks

- Homework is designed to reinforce and enhance learning, promoting retrieval opportunities and helping knowledge to be retained in the long term memory.
- Tasks are assigned based on their proven impact on learning outcomes and with children's cognitive load taken into consideration.

3. Homework Content by Subject

- **English:**
 - Building positive reading habits, including reading for pleasure.
 - Learning spellings in context to enhance vocabulary / sentence construction.
 - Developing handwriting and presentation skills.
- **Maths:**
 - Practising number fluency, including number bonds and times tables.
 - Engaging in practical maths tasks to develop confidence and strengthen problem-solving skills.

4. Pathway to 11

- As part of our Pathway to 11 Programme, children in Years 5 and 6 may receive additional tailored tasks, including:
 - Online Atom Learning assignments in Maths, English, Verbal Reasoning (VR), and Non-Verbal Reasoning (NVR).
 - Tasks designed to prepare children for expectations of 11+ examinations.
- To ease the transition to secondary school, from Spring 2, Year 6 will receive:
 - Specialist homework, assigned with varying deadlines across subjects to be communicated directly.

5. Monitoring and Feedback

- **All** homework tasks will be monitored and reviewed, ensuring their effectiveness in consolidating learning, encouraging reflection and providing appropriate challenges.

Subject Homework Requirements and Rationale

Reading

- In Little Prep and Lower Prep, children bring home banded reading books tailored to their developmental needs. Some books focus on phonetic decoding, while others build skills such as prediction, inference and comprehension. All books serve a purpose, and a positive approach helps children appreciate their value.
- Progress to the next band is based on readiness, considering both decoding and comprehension. Little Prep and early Lower Prep use **Hand, Head, Heart** questions, transitioning to **VIPERS** (vocabulary, inference, prediction, explanation, retrieval, summarising/sequencing) from Year 1.
- Reading daily for at least 15 minutes is essential, this is due to the proven link between reading and academic success. We hope this is a relaxing, enjoyable time. Reading aloud to and with an adult remains valuable for building comprehension and enjoying shared experiences. This remains the case up to Year 6.
- At school, we discuss and celebrate reading during reading sessions, encouraging wide and varied book choices to develop confident, enthusiastic readers.

Writing

- We use the Sounds-Write phonics and spelling programme, beginning with a gentle introduction in Little Prep leading to formal lessons, which are daily from Reception. Homework in Reception includes consolidating weekly phonics, while from Year 1 onwards, children learn 10 spelling words linked to sounds or word structures, progressing in complexity.
- Each week, a sound or structure is introduced, with children learning word meanings and spellings for a dictation-style test that assesses spelling, punctuation and handwriting. Writing homework, completed in a homework book, includes:
 - Using spelling words in specific sentence structures.
 - Practising neat, cursive handwriting.
 - Ensuring careful presentation.
- Handwriting support fine motor development, reinforce letter formation and build fluency in writing, which is essential for effective written communication and maintaining proper punctuation.

Maths

- Regular practice of number facts (e.g., pairs, doubles, halves, days of the week) is essential, progressing to more complex concepts like squared numbers, primes, factors, fractions, decimals and percentages.
- A “little and often” approach works best for times tables, with random-order questions helping reinforce the full table, rather than just reciting sequences. Doodle Maths and Times Table Rock Stars (TTRS) support this learning.
- Real-life maths, such as measuring, time, money and shape, is most effectively learned in context and will feature in some homework tasks but we encourage discussion in these areas whenever they naturally arise at home (e.g., cooking, organising, paying, noting duration etc).

Holiday Homework

- We recognise the importance of family time, rest and shared experiences during school holidays. For this reason, any homework suggested over holiday periods is **not compulsory**.
- That said, research shows that light, regular practice of key skills - such as reading for pleasure or times tables - can help children retain confidence and fluency. Where appropriate, teachers may therefore provide a short list of optional suggestions for families

who wish to support learning during the break.

- These suggestions will always be low-pressure and flexible, and will be shared via the homework book or Google Classroom, as appropriate.

Our Commitment

- **Balance and Well-being:** We believe that homework should support positive learning behaviours while respecting family time.
- **No Parental Teaching Expectations:** Our curriculum provides all the support children need, and we do not expect parents to take on teaching roles at home.
- **Focus on Independence:** Homework is a tool to help children develop independence, resilience, and organisational skills, preparing them for their next stages of education.

By adopting this thoughtful approach, we ensure that homework at Weston Green School is purposeful, meaningful, and beneficial for all our pupils.

HOMEWORK PROGRESSION MAP		
	TASK	PURPOSE
Little Prep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Check Peek at the Week or Tapestry ★ Work on action points from reports and Tapestry posts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → To promote retrieval of learning within school, developing communication and language skills
Reception	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Reading ★ Handwriting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → To support decoding & comprehension skills → To support fine motor development & letter formation
Years 1, 2, 3 & 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Reading ★ Writing - spellings, sentences & handwriting ★ Number / Times Tables practise / Maths consolidation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → To build positive reading habits → To consolidate and extend word & sentence knowledge → To value presentation skills → To strength mathematical foundations
Year 5 Year 6 (Autumn) Note: No HW for Year 6 in Spring 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Reading comprehension ★ Writing - spellings, sentences & handwriting ★ Maths consolidation ★ VR / NVR 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → To apply reading knowledge & skills to specific tasks → To consolidate and extend word & sentence knowledge → To value presentation skills → To apply maths skills to specific tasks → To consolidate VR / NVR skills → To prepare for assessments
Year 6 Transition (Spring 2 / Summer)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Reading ★ Writing - spellings, sentences & handwriting ★ Maths ★ Specialist homework tasks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → To build positive reading habits → To consolidate and extend word & sentence knowledge → To extend maths knowledge → To respond to differing expectations, tasks & timescales