



Wallacewell Primary School

Home Learning Policy

At Wallacewell Primary we recognise the vital role that families play in their child's education. We aim for families, pupils and teachers to work in partnership to promote positive learning within and out with the school. We strive to promote positive links between home and school and home learning is one way that this can be achieved.

Our Home Learning Policy was designed following consultation with all stakeholder in November 2023. Based on this consultation we have refreshed our approaches to home learning to ensure we are meeting learners needs as well, as ensuring consistency across the school.

Reasons for Home Learning

Children are aware that learning doesn't only take place in school. Home learning extends the amount of learning time available and can help establish a good work ethic, which will stay with children as they grow through secondary school, further and higher education and into the world of work. Every parent knows their child best and can use their own skills, knowledge and experiences to support their child's learning. The purpose of home learning tasks will vary from class to class and stage to stage but will be used to:

- Reinforce and consolidate in-school learning
- Promote opportunities for independent learning
- Encourage pupils to organise and manage their own time
- Encourage ownership and responsibility for learning
- Provide opportunities for family learning and parental engagement in learning
- Share information about class learning with families
- Continue to develop communication between home and school

Home Learning at Wallacewell

All pupils will be given home learning appropriate to their needs. Home learning tasks will vary according to stage, from class to class and will depend on the curricular focus of the task. Core curriculum areas, Literacy and Maths/ Numeracy, will provide the main focus for home learning tasks.

Maths and numeracy tasks will be assigned through Sumdog. Sumdog is a fantastic website that uses motivating games to encourage children to practise their numeracy skills. Your child's subscription is paid for by the school so they can enjoy every maths game available on the website. Every child in the school will be provided with their Sumdog login details. Research findings have revealed that children who practised maths using Sumdog for 30 minutes or more a week almost doubled their

mathematical fluency when compared to that of non Sumdog users. Through Sumdog your child will be assigned targeted activities by their class teacher who can track and monitor progress. Children can also play lots of additional games. Sumdog can be accessed via the Sumdog website or downloaded for free on ipads, tablets or smart phones.

Literacy tasks will centre on phonics and spelling learning. Our phonics and spelling programme incorporates a holistic, synthetic and integrated approach and promotes daily Listening and Talking, Reading and Writing across the curriculum. Phonics and spelling home learning tasks are designed to consolidate learning already taught in class and will vary from stage to stage. In addition to assigned learning activities, when your child comes home with a phoneme and/or list of words, you could encourage them to find, read and write words containing that phoneme within their reading books, newspapers, magazines etc. To reinforce the learning, you could also take turns to dictate simple sentences, which contain the phoneme/spelling words and take turns to be the 'teacher' and check each other's work.

Reading be issued each week to encourage the development of reading skills including fluency, decoding and comprehension. The frequency of reading homework each week will depend on the age and stage of pupils, pupil progress and the text type/genre. We encourage children to reading for pleasure at home by accessing a variety of text types and genres. Research shows that reading for pleasure has positive impacts on learners' attainment across the curriculum, supporting wellbeing, critical thinking, creativity, empathy and resilience.

Each term an extended home learning activity will be issued focussing on a particular curricular area e.g. Talking and Listening, Science, Social Subject, Expressive Arts, Technologies. This will be designed to encourage the pupils' research skills, whilst allowing them to demonstrate their creativity.

We know that family life is very busy and as such home learning tasks will be given on a weekly basis to allow families to plan for home learning across the week. Home learning tasks will be issued, wherever possible, on a Monday and should be handed in at the end of the week, usually a Friday. For Primary 7 home learning will be issued via TEAMS and can be accessed by all pupils through their GCC iPad. For Primary 1-6 all home learning will be issued on paper. All pupils will be provided with a jotter which most home learning will be completed in. All pupils will also be given a reading record to record their reading progress that should be completed by parents/carers at home.

Please note that we do not issue home learning for pupils on holiday or who are absent from school.

The Role of the Teacher

Our teachers will plan and provide tasks that are stimulating and reinforce in school learning. Teachers will not always provide written feedback on home learning but will always moderate home learning activities and provide oral feedback to pupils, when necessary, that will support them in their in class learning and development. School staff will contact parents/carers with any concerns they may have about pupil progress in learning.

Family Support

We would like to encourage families to support us in the implementation of home learning to ensure we are getting it right for all of our young people. Parents/carers can support their child's development in learning by –

- Emphasising the importance of home learning
- Establish a routine for the completion of home learning and check that it is being followed
- Listen to your child reading
- Signing completed home learning and reading records
- Give support and assistance when required
- Encourage your child to always complete tasks to the best of their ability
- Inform the school where there are concerns home learning

Pupil Engagement in Home Learning

Pupils will be encouraged in school to -

- Ensure home learning jotters and task sheets are taken home.
- Ensure that they are clear about what is expected of them.
- Be responsible for looking after their home learning jotters.
- Ask for help and advice if necessary.
- Complete the tasks to the best of their ability and hand them in on time.

Useful Information for Families

Technical Writing Target for Writing

Primary 1 & 2

Have I ...

- Put a capital letter at the start of every sentence?
- Put a full stop at the end of every sentence?
- Used joining words like and or but?
- Checked spelling of common words?
- Written neatly?

Primary 3 & 4

Have I...

- Put a capital letter at the start of every sentence?
- Put a full stop at the end of every sentence?
- Used joining words like and, so or but?
- Checked spelling of common words?
- Written neatly and tried to join letters?
- Used exclamation marks or question marks if I need to?

Primary 5

Technical Writing Targets

Have I ...

- Used full stops and capitals correctly?
- Used other punctuation marks (! , ?) if I need them?
- Used different joining words?

- Checked handwriting and spelling?
- Tried to use paragraphs sometimes?

Primary 6

Have I ...

- Used full stops and capitals correctly?
- Used other punctuation marks (' ! , ? , “ ”) when I need them?
- Written in paragraphs?
- Used a variety of joining words?
- Checked my spelling?
- Looked at handwriting and presentation?

Primary 7

Have I...

- Used a variety of sentences?
- Used other punctuation marks (' ! , “ ”) when needed?
- Written in paragraphs with topic sentences?
- Used a variety of conjunctions?
- Used apostrophes for ownership?
- Used brackets or dashes to put in additional information if necessary?
- Checked my spelling and used a thesaurus if needed?
- Looked at handwriting and presentation?
- Thought about the most suitable layout?

Useful Websites for Additional Home Learning Activities

Literacy

Bitesize Games & Activities - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects>

Maths

Bitesize Games - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects>

Maths Dictionary - <http://www.amathsdictionaryforkids.com/>

Cool Maths - <https://www.coolmath.com/>

Other Home Learning Websites and Ideas

Top Marks - <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/>

24 At-Home Learning Activities to Share with Parents of Young Children - <https://blog.brookespublishing.com/24-at-home-learning-activities-to-share-with-parents-of-young-children/>