

Family Learning

We understand how busy family life can be, therefore we want to find the right balance to ensure you have the opportunity to support your child's learning at home and also spend time together as a family.

The time that your family spends talking together is very important for your child's development and wellbeing. All stakeholders have indicated the desire to do more activities together as a family. To support this, we have adapted our homework programme to promote family learning. We now issue a Family Learning Grid each term with a variety of active, hands-on tasks that develop many skills. We have designed this to be completed as a family group, to lessen the homework pressure on the children, and to encourage family involvement with the pupils' learning and experiences. Please share your experiences with us on Twitter and tag us @WhiteleesPS

Example Family Learning Grid:

Family Learning Grid Term 2				
 Take part in some guided meditation. Your Secret Treasure: Spoonship to the Moon Your Magical Island	 Use some of your favourite fruits to make a fruit salad.	 Create a fact file for your favourite animal.	 Using butter, caster sugar and flour can you make some Scottish shortbread?	 Write a winter poem.
 Help an adult at home with the chores for a week.	 Make your own shop, using items from home, and count coins to buy different things.	 Go on a Winter Scavenger Hunt with your family. Click here to find out more!	 Challenge family members to a planking competition. Who can plank for the longest?	 Make a house for your toys! Create a cool cardboard dwelling for your dolls, action figures, or similarly sized figurines.
 EXTREME READING! Find somewhere interesting to read a book – the weirder, the better! Take a pic and post it on Twitter!	 Ask an adult to teach you their favourite childhood game.	 Teach the Teacher! Create a poster, video, PowerPoint, etc, on a topic you are interested in.	 Paper Challenge! Can you fit through an A4 sheet of paper? You can cut the paper but it must remain joined at all times!	 Have you got the magic in you? Use this video to learn some amazing magic tricks. Practise with someone at home and then mystify a friend or family member!
 Create a piece of art to show what you like about winter. Here are some ideas!	 Act of Kindness - Write a note or letter to someone in your family and tell them why you love them.	 Conduct the Ice and Salt experiment. Watch this video to help.	 Have a Family Quiz Night! Each person should come up with one round. Little ones can get some help with the writing! Remember you can have music rounds, picture rounds, riddle rounds...	 Can you fold and cut paper to create some symmetrical snowflakes? Use the internet to help you find challenging designs.
Please tweet your photos to @WhiteleesPS				

Accessing Homework

Your child's class teacher will communicate all homework information through the usual communication channels, which are currently Class Dojo, the school app and/or paper copies. If you have any questions specific to your child's class, then please contact the class teacher directly and they will be able to assist you.

Although homework tasks are not compulsory, we would encourage our learners to make attempts at some aspects of homework, whether that be the written parts or tasks from the Family Learning Grid.

Homework jotters will be distributed at the beginning of the new academic session. Tasks should be completed in homework jotters. If worksheets are needed, then class teachers will provide these in advance.

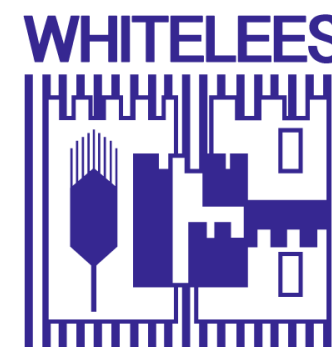
If you require any resources that would be useful to support your child's homework, then please contact the class teacher directly who will be happy to help.



WHITELEES PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY CLASS

HOMework

Parent and Learner Guide



If you would like to find out more about how best to support your child's learning, visit:

Education Scotland Parentzone:
<https://education.gov.scot/parentzone/>

Homework Review

At Whitelees we are always looking for ways to engage our learners. With this in mind, we have recently reviewed our homework provision. The review took place in September 2021 and sought views from all stakeholders across our school community. For survey results linked to our revised homework policy, please visit our [school website](#).

The aim of our adapted policy is to ensure our provision supports the learning that takes place in school, as well as ensuring an inclusive approach that is active, hands on and family based.

Benefits of Homework

Homework plays a positive role in supporting your child's learning. It can also help to raise your child's level of attainment.

However, we also acknowledge the importance of play, family time and free time in a child's growth and development. Play is important for the early stages of brain development and playing with your child can help build relationships for later life. But no matter what age we are, play helps to develop important skills for learning, life, and work.

While homework is important, it should not prevent children from taking part in the activities of various out of school clubs/ organisations or be the cause of upset or friction to your family.

Aims of Homework

At Whitelees we aim for our homework and shared learning experiences to:

- encourage reading at home;
- allow the opportunity to share learning;
- extend pupils' learning beyond the classroom;
- encourage knowledge and skills that will help with real life experiences;
- give opportunities to personalise and choose learning;
- help pupils develop their skills as an independent learner;
- promote cooperation between home and school in supporting each child's learning;
- provide opportunities to revisit learning experiences in a purposeful way;
- consolidate and reinforce the learning done in school, and to allow children to practice skills taught;
- help children develop good work habits for the future.



Literacy and Numeracy – Written Tasks

All stakeholders who took part in our recent survey indicated the need for written literacy and numeracy tasks to remain as part of the homework programme. Written tasks provide many benefits such as:

- parents/carers are able to get an indication of the work children are doing in school,
- parents/carers are able to support the work that is happening in class,
- tasks are able to consolidate learning that has taken place in class.

With this in mind, written literacy and numeracy tasks will remain part of our homework policy, however these tasks will be much shorter and therefore take less time to complete.

Research on the benefits of reading are also widespread and aspects of reading within literacy will also remain part of our homework programme.

