



Whiteley Primary School

Updated Nov 18

Home Learning Policy

The School's home-school agreement makes clear our aim "to provide suitable home learning which enables your family to support your learning".

This policy has been devised to provide clear information for parents and staff regarding our approach to homework, the pattern of homework provided by different year groups, and the importance that we give to home learning. We hope that this information will help parents to take an active role in their child's home learning.



Through this policy, we aim to

- ❖ Ensure parents have a clear understanding about the expectations for pupils;
- ❖ Ensure consistency of approach throughout the school;
- ❖ Ensure the needs of individual pupils are taken in to account;
- ❖ Encourage children to develop the responsibility, confidence and self discipline needed to study independently;
- ❖ Encourage children to develop long-term strategies for future needs;
- ❖ Provide opportunities for parents and pupils to work together to enjoy learning experiences;
- ❖ Provide opportunities for parents, pupils and school to work in partnership;
- ❖ At Y6, to prepare children for secondary transfer.

At Whiteley Primary School, we recognise the important role parents have in their child's academic development. In school, children have opportunities to develop new knowledge and skills but it is only when they practise and apply these to a variety of different situations that deeper learning occurs. Homework activities provide valuable opportunities for this and so we understand that by providing guidance for parents and a structure for homework tasks, we can develop an effective partnership between parents, pupils and the school.

Parents can help us in the implementation of this policy by

- ❖ Familiarising themselves with the policy so that they can best support their child at home;
- ❖ Praising and encouraging their child to do their best;
- ❖ Taking part in any school curriculum workshops that support home learning;
- ❖ Contacting the class teacher if any aspect of homework is causing difficulties.

Why Homework?

Homework is an issue that evokes very different reactions from parents. Some want more, some want less, some want practise activities whilst others want creative projects. Here at Whiteley, we try to incorporate a range of themes and activities, as we believe that homework can have a very positive impact on learning. However, recent research evidence suggests that homework at primary school can have little or no impact on learning and that in some cases it can damage self-esteem and turn children off learning.

During the autumn term of 2014, we decided to evaluate our home learning opportunities. This included sending out and analysing parent questionnaires specifically about homework as well as discussions with groups of staff, parents and children.

Feedback from parents was varied but in light of the findings, the guidelines for homework tasks were updated. Key changes included dropping long project and research tasks and a clearer focus on basic skills and consolidation of classwork. If you would like more information please speak to Mrs Gibbons

On-going Home Learning Tasks – Reading

Regular reading is vital across the primary school. At Whiteley Primary School, we would encourage all children to be engaged in regular, preferably daily, reading activities at home. This may include children reading aloud with an adult, reading silently (fluent readers), reading signs/posters in the environment, answering questions about their reading or listening to others read. It is important that activities should be enjoyable for the child (and the parent) so that children develop a positive attitude towards reading. Additional home reading guidance is available from the school.

Reading Challenges and Reading Ambassadors

Regular reading is supported in several ways throughout our school. In particular by our Reading Challenges and Reading Ambassadors programs. They are both designed to encourage children to read regularly at home and include a variety of badges as rewards at different stages. The Reading Challenges have included Reading Stars (2017-2018) and Reading Rockets (2018-2019) so far. The Reading Ambassadors Challenge includes House, Onyx, Topaz and Amethyst awards and is designed to be completed over more than 1 academic year. More information is available from your child's class teacher.

On-going Home Learning Tasks – Mental Maths and Times Tables

Regular activities and games to support children developing their mental maths skills are also encouraged. The new curriculum has an increased focus on children's understanding of numbers and the expectation is that they will have developed quick recall of a variety of mental facts, including all times tables up to 12x, by the end of year 4. Parents can support this by demonstrating how maths is used on a daily basis and encouraging children to apply their understanding to real life contexts such as

shopping. Other opportunities include: counting songs/games/activities; using money/calculating change; board games using 2 dice; telling the time (digital and analogue clocks) etc. Additional guidance is available from the school.

Times Tables Rockstars Challenge

To support fluency with times tables, we subscribe to Times Tables Rockstars. This online programme offers personalised quizzes and games for each child to develop instant recall of their times tables, improve their rock speed and to climb the rockstar ranks, to the ultimate goal of achieving the status "Rock Hero".

Spelling in KS2

Children will be given spellings from the National Curriculum word lists to practise and learn throughout the year. These words will be a focus in class along with spelling rules and patterns from the No Nonsense spelling programme.

Children Receiving Extra Support

If your child is part of the 1:1 programme, the homework set during these sessions takes precedence over classroom tasks. Also, if your child is on the SEN register and is given extra work to do at home, the class teacher will provide guidance as to how to prioritise home learning tasks.

Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 (Year R, 1 & 2)

In YR – Y2, all children will be provided with a home-learning book. This will contain weekly guidance on home-learning including phonic/spelling practice and an additional optional activity linked to class work. This will be handed out on **Fridays**. The home-learning books may be used by parents/pupils to carry out the activities and should be returned to the class teacher on the following **Thursday**.

Quick recall of basic number facts is developed through "Learn its". Each year group has a set of "Learn it" facts per term to work on. These will be shared on termly newsletters so that they can be reinforced at home. During Y2, children also begin to develop their understanding of times tables and will learn their 2, 5 and 10 times table. This can also be reinforced at home by counting in 2s, 5s and 10s and thinking about times tables in different ways e.g. 2 groups of 5; how many 2s in 10?; arranging marbles in groups of 2; arrays.

It is important to make any home learning as enjoyable as possible, and we leave it to parents' discretion to decide whether to use all the activities provided. We suggest that reading takes the priority, and other activities are used if appropriate for the child.

Key Stage 2 (Year 3, 4, 5, & 6)

In Y3 and Y4, homework is sent out and completed in their homework book/folder. In Y5 and Y6 activities will usually be carried out on paper, and then when possible stuck into the appropriate class book.

Year	Homework Tasks	Set	Due
Y3	Up to 3 pieces a week (maths, English, spelling) Ongoing reading and mental maths including times tables	Fri	Tues
Y4	Up to 3 pieces a week (maths, English, spelling) Ongoing reading and mental maths including times tables	Fri	Tues
Y5	Up to 3 pieces a week (maths, English, spelling) Ongoing reading and mental maths including times tables	Thurs	Tue
Y6	Up to 3 pieces a week (maths, English, SPAG, guided reading) On-going reading and mental maths including times tables	Fri	Wed

Weekly tasks at KS2 will either be Share it! or Practise it! tasks.

- to demonstrate what they have learnt *Share it!*
- to consolidate and practise specific skills from the week *Practise it!*

The aim is that children can take responsibility for their homework and so it should be accessible and can be done independently. If you have any concerns, please contact their teacher.

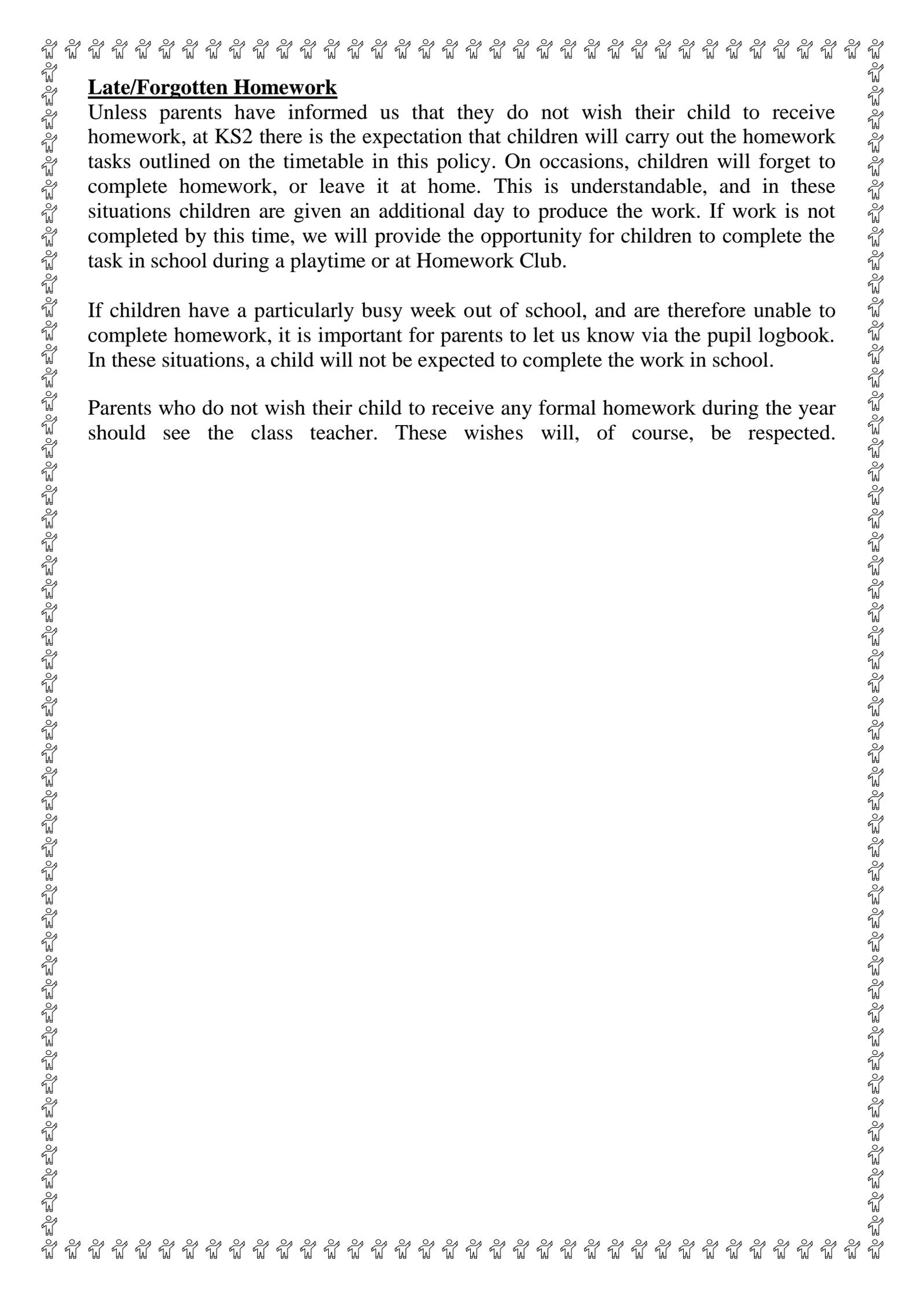
Feedback

At Whiteley Primary, we value the efforts children make with their home learning. Depending on the task, feedback to children about homework may be given in one of the following ways:

- ❖ A written comment, stamp or sticker from the teacher on an individual's work;
- ❖ Verbal discussion with individuals, groups or the class. For example, some tasks will be marked as a class, or the homework used as the basis of a lesson.
- ❖ Self and peer assessment.
- ❖ A note in the pupil logbook for a particularly good piece of homework or work put on display;
- ❖ Use of the school's rewards systems (housepoints, sharing in assembly, Headteacher award).

Homework Club

Older children will also have an opportunity to attend Homework Club. It will run for Y4, Y5 and Y6 on Mondays at lunchtime and the children will sign up on a Monday morning (they do not need to attend every week, just as required.) Homework Club may be used to complete unfinished homework, to get help and support with challenging tasks or teachers may ask children to use the time to complete tasks not handed in on time.



Late/Forgotten Homework

Unless parents have informed us that they do not wish their child to receive homework, at KS2 there is the expectation that children will carry out the homework tasks outlined on the timetable in this policy. On occasions, children will forget to complete homework, or leave it at home. This is understandable, and in these situations children are given an additional day to produce the work. If work is not completed by this time, we will provide the opportunity for children to complete the task in school during a playtime or at Homework Club.

If children have a particularly busy week out of school, and are therefore unable to complete homework, it is important for parents to let us know via the pupil logbook. In these situations, a child will not be expected to complete the work in school.

Parents who do not wish their child to receive any formal homework during the year should see the class teacher. These wishes will, of course, be respected.

