

15th November 2022

Dear parents/carers,

We believe that homework is an important part of the learning process for our children. We are aware that occasionally, homework causes anxiety amongst some families and that defeats the objectives of this policy. I am writing to outline a few key points and expectations to try to alleviate this stress!

Setting of homework procedure

As well as consolidating learning, homework is also designed to help pupils develop their independence and organisational skills. When pupils are set homework by their teacher, they are expected to record the task in their planner on the date set (apart from reading- this is recorded in a reading log). They should also record the date it is due in. Provisions are made for children who we are aware of that struggle to record this information independently. If the task requires a worksheet or a link to a website to complete, this will be provided by the teacher, or they may be directed to the website to find the worksheet. If the pupil loses this, they should ask the teacher for a replacement before the due date. If homework is not completed by the deadline, an extension will be issued by the teacher before an appropriate consequence is issued.

Homework Policy Overview

Our homework programme is designed to help pupils consolidate and revise their learning in school by completing regular reading, timetables practice, skills checks and retrieval practice activities. Retrieval practice is a technique where children recall what they have already learnt through various methods, in order to help them revise it and apply it to future learning. We also want to make home-learning fun, so we have also designed optional project-based activities and provided links for further study which are outlined below.

English homework

Woodhouse Academy not only promotes a love of reading but also firmly believes that reading competence underpins all students' ability to communicate effectively and make progress across the whole curriculum. Therefore, all pupils are issued a reading log which is completed on a weekly basis. Pupils are asked to read a minimum of five times per week (unless they have another arrangement with their English teacher) either individually or with a parent/carer. Should a pupil read 7 times a week every week until half term, they will be issued a non-uniform pass by their English teacher for their tremendous efforts. English teachers will also be setting homework regularly when opportunities arise in class.

Maths homework

All year groups complete weekly skills sheets that are differentiated based on year group and setting and these are given to pupils during their maths lessons. Pupils are also encouraged to practise their timetables via the programme *TimesTable Rockstars*, ideally trying to complete 5 minutes practice per day on the TT website or app. Pupils have been provided with an individual log in for this website and complete various activities in order to improve their timetable competence and speed.

Homework in non-core subjects

Homework in the non-core subjects is set termly and is arranged on a timetable to ensure pupils do not become overwhelmed. The table states which half term the pupils should expect to be set their homework task in that subject (these are also on the homework poster on the website with an

outline of the specific task please see here

<http://www.woodhouseacademy.staffs.sch.uk/page/homework/109541>), however the specific due date is at the discretion of the teacher.

Autumn half term 1(until Oct half term)	Autumn half term 2 (until Christmas)	Spring half term 1 (until Feb half term)	Spring half term 2 (until Easter)	Summer half term 1 (until May half term)	Summer half term 2 (until the summer holidays)
Science	Art	Science	Art	Science	Art
Computer Science	History	Computer Science	History	Computer Science	History
DT	Languages	DT	Languages	DT	Languages
Geography	Music	Geography	Music	Geography	Music
PE	RE	PE	RE	PE	RE

These tasks are based on supporting pupils in developing and revising their acquisition and understanding of subject-specific terminology, which they can then use to support their verbal and written work in class.

Optional homework projects

Each department also provides one optional project-based homework task per year group for pupils who wish to apply their curriculum learning to a creative activity. It would be fantastic if as many pupils as possible completed these tasks and showed them to their teachers and earned house points and/or Head Teacher Awards for completing them, although it is not compulsory like the above tasks.

Please find our comprehensive compulsory and optional homework posters for each subject here: <http://www.woodhouseacademy.staffs.sch.uk/page/homework/109541>

Independent further learning opportunities

Each curriculum area also provides relevant and appropriate web links to educational resources (such as BBC Bitesize, the Oak Academy etc) which pupils can use at their leisure to consolidate and extend their curriculum learning. These can be found on the academic area of our website and the links to further learning are embedded within each subject's curriculum presentation, all of which can be found here: <http://www.woodhouseacademy.staffs.sch.uk/page/curriculum-assessment-details/19264>

Food technology and cooking

Pupils in year 6 and year 8 take part in cookery lessons at certain stages throughout the year as part of the DT curriculum and are required to bring in their own ingredients (half the year take part and then swap over half way through the year- you will be notified when this happens). Pupils are given a paper copy of the half term's recipes to glue in their planner and the recipes and ingredients list are also on our website here: <http://www.woodhouseacademy.staffs.sch.uk/page/recipes-y6-y8-cooking-club/109556> The office also send text reminders about ingredients.

Arbor

Teachers are also beginning to trial using Arbor as a platform to set homework, however this is a work in progress as we adjust to a new system, so your child's planner, and they themselves will also be a useful source of information regarding homework. Mrs Mullock has also created a short tutorial video which explains where our homework information can be found. The link to this video is here: <https://youtu.be/57eDNzVIZTU>



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We thank you for your continued support with our homework policy and if you have any queries regarding a specific piece of homework or the policy itself please contact the school office in the first instance.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs Jade Mullock
Assistant Principal