

# Whitehall



## Nursery and Infant School

### Home Learning Policy

At Whitehall Nursery and Infant School, we feel passionately that the most helpful thing that can be done to support a child's learning at home is to share books and reading with them on a regular basis. This means a family member reading to their child, listening to their child read and talking about what they are reading. As adults, we are all reading role models – there is lots of evidence that children seeing an adult, who is important to them, read is a powerful factor in encouraging them to read more frequently. This is because they then aspire to be like the adult and so want to read too!

Becoming a confident reader and being able to understand a range of texts is hugely important – it allows a child to grow in confidence and to access all areas of the curriculum.

We would like children to spend short periods of time (10-15 minutes) each day reading, talking about their reading or listening to an adult read. We give all our children in Reception and KS1 a reading diary so that all reading activities that are done at home can be recorded.

The Oxford Owl reading website is a great resource for guiding parents on how to support their child's reading. Parents/carers can visit our school website and follow the link in their child's year group page.

Many of our staff are parents ourselves and we know how negative the whole homework experience can be and that instead of encouraging children to learn it can actually put them off. We don't want children or parents to have to do something that is not going to be purposeful or useful.

We will, therefore, not be giving children formal homework on a regular weekly basis but we will be promoting home learning.

#### **What are our Home Learning aims?**

##### **We want Home Learning to:**

- Recognise and celebrates learning which already takes place at home
- Promote parents/carers and children reading and talking together
- Provide opportunities for children to take responsibility for their own learning
- Give parents/carers the opportunity to have fun learning experiences together

##### **Key Points**

- Children who do not regularly practice reading at home are likely to fall behind their peers and there is then a chance that they will struggle throughout their time in education. The more frequently parents read to their child, the wider their vocabulary will become.

- Children should spend a few minutes each day revising number facts and spellings. The more they practice these the more time the brain can spend processing the more complex, higher level things they will be learning as they move through the school.
- At the outset of each academic year, teachers will meet parents to clarify these expectations and direct them to the school website where they can find the information to support with home learning.
- Reading role models are the main motivation for a child to read and enjoy books. A child seeing their parents or other significant adults read is very powerful.
- We encourage families to support their child's learning by regularly writing in their reading diary. Staff will check these diaries periodically. Children in Year 1 and 2 will have a reading race in their books and will be able to get medals to celebrate their achievement. In reception they will get a star for every 6 books they read and then a celebration book when their chart is full.

### **Home learning in the early years (Nursery and Reception)**

In the early years, parents and carers should share a book with their child every day. Reading sessions should last approximately 10 minutes. We provide a reading diary for you to fill in so that we can share the reading done in school and at home. We also expect parents to spend around 5 minutes each day working with their child on initial sounds and high frequency words. We will send the phonic sound they are working on so you know what to support them with.

### **Home learning in Y1 and Y2**

Parents should spend approximately 15 minutes each day sharing a book with their child. This could be the child reading to the adult or the adult reading to the child. 5 minutes should be spent working on high frequency words and number facts. Depending on their stage of learning they might receive phonics work to do at home to help support their reading.

As a school we like to value and celebrate the learning that goes on at home that is not organised by school. We encourage children to tell us what they have been learning at home. They can do this by sharing photographs, medals, trophies or certificates that they achieved or received at out of school clubs or on activities with their friends or family.

### **Online learning**

Websites such as Purple Mash and Busy Things can be used to also support home learning. We recommend children spend a maximum of 20 minutes a day accessing these resources so that they do not exceed recommended daily screen time.

Logins to these websites will be provided by class teachers at the start of the year.

### **Home School Projects**

Each half-term topic will be shared on the website and information or activities related to the creative curriculum will be shown there. These activities are not compulsory and children do not need to do them unless it is something you will enjoy doing together.

As one of the most effective ways of learning at home is when children and adults share the learning experience we will be challenging all children with an activity to complete over each half term related to the topic that they children are learning in their year group. For example in Year 1 when they learn about

Castles they are challenged to make ...a castle! Or in Year 2 when they learn about Wolves they are challenged to make a large Wolf Fact File. These are creative activities that you can design in whatever way you chose and can use the internet together with your child to find out about the information that is related to their learning at school. This will happen in Reception later on in the year when they are more independent in their learning.

### **Children with an Education & Health Care Plan (EHCP)**

The key points of the Home Learning policy may be modified for children with an EHCP to best fit in with their needs. Where this is necessary this will be discussed with parents.

SLT 2023 – Due for Review 2026 unless updates required.