

Homework Policy

At Pinewood we strongly believe in the triangle that supports children's learning. This triangle consists of the partnership between school, parents and the children themselves. Research has told us that parents who are informed and involved in their children's learning at the age of 7, have six times more effect than school on their children's learning. Working together, we can achieve the aim for children to fulfil their development at this stage in their schooling.

Homework is set for children to do and the role of parents or carers is to encourage them to do it or make a reasonable attempt. Homework is not set for parents or carers to do and children to watch and help them. The intended outcomes of these joint learning experiences are to:

- enable children to consolidate and apply mathematical and literacy concepts through a context,
- improve children's reading skills and
- provide parents with opportunities to discuss the educational value of learning thus enabling them to gain a greater insight into good practice in education.

Homework (in addition to that listed below) will be given on a needs basis in accordance with a child's progress.

Parents can support their child's learning in a variety of ways...

Daily reading

At Pinewood we believe that reading daily to practice the key skills that are taught is vital to unlocking learning potential. The children will bring home a school reading book matched to the phonics they are learning or key words by sight.

- Children are expected to read at least five times a week at home, they are then rewarded with an incentive to motivate them.

In addition to this, the children will bring home a library book that is to promote reading for pleasure. This may be read by themselves or by you. We would also encourage all parents and carers to read aloud to their child. Research shows that there is a real benefit to reluctant readers, particularly boys, if a male role model (dad, step-dad, uncle, older brother or family friend) reads stories to children.

Spelling and Handwriting

Spellings are sent home for children in years 1 and 2 as and when the children are ready. These may include high frequency words, words useful for the current topic or phonic pattern related words. It is not intended that the children learn the words in isolation but learn how to apply the spellings in sentences. It is also linked to the handwriting they are learning, learning how the words look and how to form them.

For children who find handwriting more difficult, this can be achieved using multi-sensory approaches such as in shaving foam, using chalk on a pavement writing in a tray of lentils.

For children in year R, phonic homework will be sent home, also linked to the formation of letters – just as for years 1 and 2.

- Children are expected to complete their spelling or phonic homework in their best handwriting weekly.

Maths skills

Maths talk (reasoning and explanation) is crucial to the understanding of concepts of maths. Using and applying maths skills is an important part of maths development, learning when to use certain maths skills. At Pinewood we believe that maths is fun and so have provided ways for your child to practice their maths skills through games. Children in all years at Pinewood have been provided with a membership to Maths Seeds. This is an online subscription that allows the children to complete maths games to practice their fluency and number facts.

- Children are expected to spend 15 minutes throughout the week on maths games to practice and show you their maths learning.

Children will be provided with the log on details at the beginning of the year.

Target sharing

Individual targets highlighting your child's next steps will also be shared with you half termly through the parent consultation meetings or target sharing sessions. Working on the same targets at home and school is helpful towards the children achieving their next steps. There is a discussion about how to support these targets in the home at the events mentioned.

Notes

In addition to the homework listed above, there may be times when your child brings home additional homework to support an area of learning they. This will be given on a needs basis in accordance with a child's progress.

If you have any concerns over the homework or require support to fulfil the tasks with your child, please contact the school so that we may provide assistance.

Please support us and your child: Remember that 'little and often' is the key to embedding memory and learning!