

Yeadon Westfield Infant School

Sharing Learning Policy 2020

[Review 2023]

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of all children, and expects our staff, governors and volunteers to share this commitment. This policy should be read in conjunction with all other school policies.

For the children in our school 'homework' describes activities which encourage learning together at home in a FUN and enjoyable way and we prefer to describe this as sharing learning. This includes short activities such as simple games, learning sounds and spellings and story-telling, writing for a purpose e.g. making lists, writing cards and reading together, counting together and learning number facts, recognising shapes and talking about their properties. These provide an important opportunity for young children to talk about what they are doing with an interested adult and practise key skills in a supportive environment. Activities sent home are not formally assessed in school but we welcome input from parents/carers with regard to how their child has engaged with the activity. These activities may reinforce new learning recently introduced in school, give children an opportunity to explore new areas of learning or to simply practise core skills such as number bonds or spellings.

Aims and objectives

- To provide opportunities for parents/carers, children and school to work in partnership
- To emphasise the value that school places on parents/carers as important educators of their children
- To provide opportunities for parent/carers to see, understand and participate in the progress their child is making
- To provide opportunities for children to share with parents what they have learned
- To provide opportunities for parents/carers and children to work together to enjoy learning experiences
- To support parents/carers by providing sessions on how key skills are taught
- To extend and support the learning experience through reinforcement and revision
- To raise pupil achievement
- To lay foundations for future independent learning as the children progress through their school career

We expect the children to work hard in school and they are obviously tired at the end of the day. It is desirable that children have other hobbies and interests outside school, such as sport, dancing etc. These make a significant contribution to children's physical, emotional and social development and are very important learning opportunities. We believe that time spent talking with and listening to children is a vital part of their development. We aim to ensure

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that parents/carers and children enjoy working together at home and do not want to place children under excessive pressure which can be counter-productive.

Our policy is flexible so that parents/carers can work with their children in the most appropriate way. We believe that parents/carers are the best judge of what is right for their child at home.

Please find attached a list of activities to do with your child at home; some of these are set by the teacher and others are suggestions.

Nursery suggestions

- Share a library book [from school] weekly
- Play games such as lotto, snakes and ladders, dominoes etc.
- Create shopping lists, letters, cards etc. and value the child's early scribbles as emergent writing and a step towards forming letters correctly.
- Give yourself a bit more time for getting dressed to come to school and let your child try to put on their own socks and shoes, get their arms into their coat sleeves.
- Pass a ball to each other by rolling, kicking, throwing and catching.
- Talk about what you see and hear
- Listen and add words. eg. A child said 'Digger,' and her parent responded. 'Yes, it's a big red digger.'
- Turn off the TV and talk to your child about what they have done at school.
- Sing Nursery Rhymes.
- Share a book before bed.
- Count your steps as you walk.
- Ask how many ...? type questions. How many cards did you get for your birthday?

In Reception

- We would like children to share/read a book for a minimum of ten minutes per night. This can be their own reading book, a story from home or the local library.
- Children will also bring home 'sounds' and key words to learn in a fun and game like way.
- Simple questionnaires and tasks in connection with termly topics will occasionally be sent home for your child to complete with an adult.
- We would encourage parents to value all attempts at writing by talking with their child about it. This will help them to progress from emergent [writing-like squiggles] to

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forming letters correctly. Later in the Reception year children will bring home spellings to practise.

- Telling stories to children and encouraging them to tell, re-tell and act out their own and well-known stories will help them develop their vocabulary.
- We ask that parents/carers play simple counting and number games with their child which will help their development in counting and number recognition.

Year one

In Year 1 we will send home:

- weekly spellings. These are to help children learn spelling patterns as set by National Curriculum 2014 as well as "tricky" words. A spelling challenge will be carried out every week.
- weekly phonics. This will usually consist of words or sentences for children to read and will reinforce learning carried out during the week. Parents will then be able to keep up to date with what their child has been doing in class. If your child can read the words easily, try spelling them!
- reading books. These will be sent home as regularly as possible. Some children may take books home every day if they are on a frequent reader programme. Please read with your child and send the book straight back to school.
- library books. These are books your child has chosen and are for sharing.
- numbers bonds (Learn Its!). These will be sent home periodically. They are the number facts children need to have on instant recall in Year 1.
- topic work may be sent home occasionally;
- other work may be sent out to individuals as the need arises.

In addition, we would encourage you to:

- share books with your child every single day;
- have in depth discussions with your child about what they have been learning or what they are interested in - our children have an amazing curiosity and capacity for advanced vocabulary!

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- play oral games (e.g. I spy) and board games (e.g. snakes and ladders);
- count to 10, 20, 100, 1000!
- count in 2s, 5s and 10s.
- put number work into everyday life - e.g. How many more sausages do we need? How do you know?
- practise reading the time, at least to o'clock and half past time - children who learn this at home as well as at school have a great advantage;
- make sure your child recognises and uses simple coins and knows their value;

Year two

In Year 2 we will send home:

- spelling contracts. These are to help children learn spelling patterns as set by National Curriculum 2014 as well as "tricky" words.
- Phonics as appropriate. This will usually consist of words or sentences for children to read and will reinforce learning carried out during the week. Parents will then be able to keep up to date with what their child has been doing in class. If your child can read the words easily, try spelling them!
- reading books. These will be sent home as regularly as possible. Some children may take books home every day if they are on a frequent reader programme. Please read with your child and send the book straight back to school.
- library books. These are books your child has chosen and are for sharing.
- Learn Its! These will be sent home periodically. They are the number facts children need to have on instant recall in Year 2.
- topic based research activities will be sent home occasionally;
- other work may be sent out to individuals as the need arises.

- Maths challenges will be sent home weekly. These are fun activities which encourage adult/child interaction and mathematical conversation.

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- practise reading the time as children who learn this at home as well as at school have a great advantage;
- make sure your child can recognise and use coins and knows their value;

Please ask us for more ideas if you wish or let us know what you do. The key to any activity is to engage the children in their learning.