



Woodseats Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs S Fox Chair of Governors: Mrs S Hall



6th September 2019

Dear Parents / Carers,

I am writing to let you know about some changes to our homework policy. This year we have listened to feedback from the children and yourselves around homework and have decided to simplify it.

In school this year we are focusing heavily on reading. We will work hard to make sure lower down the school (Reception to Year 2) all of the children **Learn to Read** and then we will develop their skills so they can **Read to Learn**. For all children (with the exception of Year 6) we will be asking them to read every day as part of their homework.

Children who are **Learning to Read** will take home two different books, a phonetically decodable book and a sharing book. The phonetically decodable book will be linked to your child's phonics ability and they will be able to read this independently, by segmenting and blending the sounds together. The sharing book is a book for you to read with your child to develop their vocabulary and comprehension skills.

For homework, the children can read their schoolbook, a library book, the internet for research, a magazine, a comic, an information text, whatever they want to but we need them to read! We are asking that you support us by reading with them, this can be listening to them read their schoolbook, talking to them about books, asking questions about what they have read or reading to them and discussing it. Useful questions to ask your child can be found on their year group reading bookmark. We would like all of our children to listen to stories and experience as wide a range as possible of texts and we need your help to do this.

Our expectation this year is that everyone reads for his or her homework. Teachers will send home year group spelling lists and will ask the children to complete some maths skills, including times tables (Timestable Rockstars) but we will not be sending home lots of additional homework to the reading. On the class newsletter, the key vocabulary for the half term will be shared as well as the knowledge organiser for the topic. The knowledge organiser is an overview of the key learning the children will be undertaking that term and would be good to read at the start of the half term with your child.

There will also be some ideas for project based learning that you can complete with your child, but there is no expectation that they must be completed. It is great when children enjoy being creative and we can share their wonderful home learning in class.

We are going to be holding some parent workshops on our **Learn to Read and Read to Learn**:

- Wednesday 18th September 9am or 3.45pm for KS1 aged children (Y1 and Y2)
- Thursday 19th September 9am or 3.45pm for KS2 aged children (Y3-6)
- Monday 23rd September 9am or 3.45pm for EYFS aged children (YN and YR)

At these sessions we will share with you how we are teaching reading and how you can support your child to become a fluent reader. We will also share how you can support those who can read but need to develop their 'comprehension' skills (**Read to Learn** skills).

We look forward to seeing you at those workshops and thank you for your continued support.

Sinead Fox
Headteacher

