

Homework Guidelines for Year One

In Year One the children will be introduced to homework in the form of half term challenges. Homework will cover all areas of the curriculum; it could be a maths, literacy or topic based task. It could be a discussion, a hunt around the house or a practical task. These tasks are not intended to be long or tiring but more of a chance to work on a skill or extend a topic. Homework is a great opportunity for parents to become involved in their child's learning and for children to share what they have learned at home.

Your child will be given a named homework folder with a named homework book inside. The first half term's homework challenges will be on a sheet at the beginning of the book. We ask that homework be completed in **pencil**, not pen, inside your child's named homework book. Some tasks can be completed on a computer, either at home or by using the library's computers, however don't feel that you have to always use ICT when completing a challenge!

We understand the pressures of family life and we recognise that on some weekends you may be too busy to complete a homework challenge. However, on quieter weekends, you may have extra time and might want to do more than one challenge. The concept of multiple half termly challenges is so that it is flexible for family life!

Homework folders will be given out on **Fridays** and can be returned to school at any point during the following week ready to be marked and given back out on Friday. This means that the children have up to a whole week to complete a task. The children have the responsibility of taking their folders out of their bags. It is important that homework is brought back as we often use it to inform our classroom work.

Please do not put notes, trip money or reading books into the homework folder as it is not always emptied straight away and it may not be the teacher who looks into the folder.

READING: Reading is important to us at West End and your child will read with an adult on most days. However this will not always take the form of reading in their yellow record book, it could be a game, a computer based activity or reading a specific text such as a recipe or poem. Children should bring their reading books to school on **Mondays**. The children will all read at some point on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday and they will then bring their books home on **Wednesday** evenings. The book or pages to be read will be clearly indicated in the reading diary. Books should come back to school by **Thursday**. The children will read at some point on Thursday or Friday then bring their books home for the weekend. It is important that when your child reads at home, the book is **signed**. Your comments as to how well they read are also useful and encouraging but we realise that time is precious in the evenings!

At school, we ask the children questions about what is happening, why characters behave in a certain way, what unfamiliar phrases mean and what might happen next. It would help to develop your child's understanding of their texts if you could discuss the book in this way at home too.

SPELLINGS: Spelling is taught explicitly during our weekly spelling lessons as well as our daily short phonic sessions and our weekly longer phonics lessons. We do not have traditional spelling tests as we feel that they are not the best way to develop phonic knowledge in children. Each half term, we will send home the sounds and spelling patterns that we are working on in class so that you can encourage and support your child at home.

We will be working on the Year One, high frequency words or, 'tricky words' all through the year and the children are expected to spell all 45 of them correctly by the end of the year. We'd appreciate your help by spending some time to practise at home too.

Hopefully you have found this information useful but feel free to see us if you have any concerns or queries. Thank you for your continued support,

Mr Allison and Miss Costello