

## Whitecote Primary School

### Homework – A Guide for Parents and Carers

At Whitecote Primary School, we want homework to **support learning without causing stress** for children or families. This guide explains our approach and what you can expect.

#### Why We Set Homework

Homework is used to **practise and reinforce learning** that has already taken place in school. It is not designed to introduce new learning.

We believe homework should:

- Support children's learning in a manageable way
- Help children build confidence and independence
- Encourage good learning habits
- Leave time for family life, play and rest

#### What Homework Will Look Like

Homework will focus on basic skills, which are essential for all children. This includes:

- Reading (sharing books, reading independently, talking about stories)
- Mathematics (number facts, basic calculations, fluency practice)
- Spelling
- Phonics (where appropriate)

#### How Long Homework Should Take

Homework is planned to be short and manageable:

- Years 1 & 2 – up to 15 minutes
- Years 3 & 4 – up to 20 minutes
- Years 5 & 6 – up to 25 minutes

These timings are a guide and are designed to reduce pressure and family stress.

#### When Homework Should Be Completed

- Homework will be set with a 1-week completion window, rather than being due the next day.
- Families can choose when it best fits their routine.
- Homework is not expected to be returned the following day.

#### Expectations and Support

- Homework is encouraged, but there are no consequences or sanctions if it is not completed.
- Children will not be punished or miss learning opportunities because homework hasn't been done.
- Staff are supportive and understand that circumstances vary from family to family.

#### Clear Instructions

All homework will include clear and simple instructions so it is easy for children and families to understand. Where helpful, this may include examples or spoken explanations in class.

#### How Parents and Carers Can Help

We encourage parents and carers to:

- Offer encouragement and reassurance
- Enjoy reading together regularly
- Let school know if homework is causing worry or difficulty

You are not expected to teach new learning—just to support practice and confidence.

#### Reviewing Homework

Teachers regularly review how homework is working and welcome feedback from families. This helps us make sure homework continues to support children's learning and wellbeing.