

Home Learning at South Wilford



At South Wilford, we always want to make sure we are doing things for the right reasons, in the best interests of the children and that we never do anything just because 'everyone else is doing it!' We pride ourselves on making decisions based on research.

For that very reason, we decided to look at the way we set home learning.

We know that the children work hard at school and that in the 32 ½ hours a week they are with us, we are providing them with all the knowledge and skills they need to succeed and flourish. We know that because we monitor our curriculum, our teaching and learning, and our end of year outcomes are well above the national average for the expected standard and the higher level.

Our teachers are excellent and the curriculum we have finely tuned over the past few years is the best it has ever been in ensuring children are challenged and that they are able to retain the information they need. Where children are struggling, we ensure they receive bespoke support.

We encourage children to be active and pursue their passions and interests out of school and we know that many of the children take part in clubs and activities in the evenings and at the weekends, often to a very high standard. We know that this is also demanding on your time.

However, we recognise that parental interaction with children's learning at home can have a very positive impact on children's progress, as can the regular consolidation of learning-making the learning stick!

After much discussion, we have decided that home learning will focus on reading, spelling and multiplication tables. These are the areas we feel will be the most impactful in terms of supporting your child's learning. We would like children to read at home a minimum of three times weekly. This should be the child's colour labelled book. The children also have a 'reading for pleasure' book which can also be read.

We would also like children to practice their multiplication tables as these are so important in ensuring fluency in maths and will support all maths learning in class.

We will be teaching children spelling rules weekly **which will be practiced in class daily**. We follow the following plan for spelling:

- spelling is taught through phonics in EYFS, Y1 and Y2 (Autumn term)
- spelling is then taught Y2-Y6 through 3 spelling sessions a week
- spelling sessions will take the form of:

session 1 - teach

session 2 - practise

session 3 - apply

Spelling is taught through spelling patterns, homophones and morpheme patterns (root words, pre-fixes and suffixes) and word study.

Children will not be given spellings to take home and practise (as spelling practise will take place in school) and there will be no formal spelling test. If you would like to help your child, simply practise spellings at home with the spelling rule of that week.

Here's the research bits...

- Research has shown that when given weekly spelling tests, children usually learn to spell the words correctly for the test but fail to retain or generalise this knowledge to writing. (Abbot 2001)
- Research has shown that spelling is not an exclusive process of rote memorisation (Reed, 2012).
- "Learning to spell is a complex, intricate, cognitive and linguistic process rather than one of rote memorisation." (Heald Taylor, 1998)
- Alex Quigley States that based on the research on spelling, integrated word study is an effective and efficient way to teach children how to spell." (Alex Quigley, Closing the Writing Gap, 2022)
- He also states "With targeted teaching and structured practice, we can help pupils of all ages to better self-regulate their spelling when writing. Spelling will never be simple for everyone, but teaching prominent spelling patterns, explicitly and consistently, is bound to make a helpful difference." (Alex Quigley, Closing the Writing Gap, 2022)

At the start of the week, your class teacher will let you know through class dojo which spelling rule is being taught and which multiplication table is being practised so you can practise at home with your child if you wish.

Alongside this document you will have received another that tells you the ways you can find out about what your child is learning in school such as their topics and key curriculum areas. Hopefully this will help you engage with your child's learning at home. You will be able to use this to do extra research or revisit what your child has been doing in class.

A great place to start is the school website: southwiltford.nottingham.sch.uk Here you will find your child's year group page and also subject pages which outline the curriculum for your child's year group in each subject.

You can also access your child's 'Showbie' account through any internet enabled device, which will allow you to see exactly what they have been learning.

We will send home an optional home learning project every half term holiday that you can support your child with linked to their curriculum learning. At the end of a term, we will send home a research project linked to the topic for the next term.

I hope this clarifies how we will move forward with home learning but please get in touch with your child's class teacher if you would like any more information.

It will be slightly different for Year 6 as we prepare them for the transition to secondary school. This will be explained further at the Year 6 Parents Evening.

Best Wishes,

The South Wiltford Strategic Leadership Group (Natalie Aldridge, Simon Good and Ben Precious)