

Featherstone Wood Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Homework was always intended to be a way for children to practise and consolidate their learning. We are very aware that it can become a trigger point at home as families battle to complete it. This was not the intended outcome. We are working hard to show children the positives of learning and do not want homework to negate all the hard work in school.

Since I started in 2013 we have tried to have very clear routines for everyone – homework set on Friday, to be handed in the following Wednesday giving the weekend and Monday and Tuesday to complete. For those stuck there was the opportunity to seek help in school before the Wednesday deadline. Those not completing it were then required to complete it in their own time in school on Wednesdays.

The feedback in our recent questionnaire was mixed, some people wanted more homework, some felt it was too much or too hard. There is a very fine line because we need to ensure that the children are ready for the demands of secondary whilst still enjoying their time at primary school and home. They work very hard at school and I am very proud of their achievements and attitude and sometimes they are just tired at home and don't want to do anymore.

Research has shown that homework does not always have a clear positive educational impact on children's learning. With this in mind the school has decided to revise its policy on homework. As of the 21st April the school will no longer be setting weekly subject homework as before for years 1 - 4. Instead we are introducing home learning expectations. These are outlined below.

Reading	daily
Spellings	weekly
Times tables	age appropriate
Topic	a family project at least once a year

Years 5 & 6 will continue to receive weekly maths and English based homework as this helps to prepare them for secondary school. They will also be provided with SATs preparation work. We understand that many parents value homework and want their children to do more at home. We have added some useful websites and activities to the class pages of the website www.featherstonewood.herts.sch.uk and they are listed below.

It is important that the children experience learning in as many fun and engaging ways. Reading to their parents, discussing their topics and learning at home, visiting a museum or place of interest linked to their learning, watching documentaries. Nothing can replace those fun family days out.

Year group	Useful website	Activity ideas
EYFS	<p>Phonics: http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/freelIndex.htm - Recognising sounds (phase 1), blending words.</p> <p>http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/puzzles/down-on-the-farm-animal-sounds-quiz - Recognising sounds (phase 1)</p> <p>http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/stories - Recognising familiar stories.</p> <p>Maths: http://www.topmarks.co.uk/learning-to-count/teddy-numbers - rote counting, number recognition.</p> <p>http://www.topmarks.co.uk/learning-to-count/ladybird-spots - Counting, matching and ordering.</p> <p>http://mrcrammond.com/games/understanding_number/Understanding_number.swf?sid=3683 – Number formation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Look for minibeasts in your garden or in the park. - talk about number that you see when you are out and about. - Talk about the sounds that you can hear at home, see if you can copy them. - Work together to write a shopping list or birthday cards. - When you are out shopping ask you child to get things for you. 'Can you get me one....?can you get me two more....?'
One	<p>English http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks1/literacy/spelling/play/</p> <p>History https://www.dkfindout.com/uk/history/pirates/ http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primaryhistory/famous-people/florence_nightingale/</p> <p>Maths http://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/5-7-years/multiplication-and-division http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks1/maths/multiplication/play/ https://www.coolmath4kids.com/ http://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button</p> <p>Phonics http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/</p>	<p>In Year One we look at the changes of the seasons. -Throughout the year go for walks and look at the changes to the environment. - Compare one season to the next. -Measure the weather during each of the seasons.</p> <p>Autumn Term - Make a family tree to show the members of the family. - Look at how life has changed for each generation- especially with the new technology.</p>

		<p><u>Spring Term</u> -Read some traditional tales. -Create a puppet of theatre to tell each other the story.</p> <p><u>Summer Term</u> -Make an artefact which could have been owned by a pirate. - Make a treasure map and give directions to find the treasure</p>
<p>Two</p>	<p>English: http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/topics/zcqv39q - Revision</p> <p>Look, Cover, Spell, Check: http://www.ictgames.com/lwc.html - spelling support</p> <p>Phonics: http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/ChildrensMenu.htm - Free games for children to practice Phonics</p> <p>Maths: http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zjxhfg8 - Maths revision</p> <p>https://www.coolmath4kids.com/ - Maths games</p> <p>http://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button - Maths revision games – times tables and number bonds,</p> <p>http://www.topmarks.co.uk/Flash.aspx?f=CalcBalance5 – Maths games for addition, subtraction, multiplication and division practice.</p> <p>National Geographic’s for Kids: http://www.ngkids.co.uk/ - different activities for children</p>	<p>Here are some activity ideas and days out ideas that link to our topics in class:</p> <p>Autumn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Visit a theatre, - Research about a theatre. - Create your own theatre, - Visit The Great Fire of London Monument, - Design your own Fire Engine, <p>Spring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Make a fruit salad, - Go on a bike ride, - Design a meal showing your 5 a day, <p>Summer :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Design your own sea creature, - Research about the RNLI, - Research about Grace

	<p>Scholastic Activities:</p> <p>https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/student-activities/ - different activities for children</p>	<p>Darling,</p> <p>- Visit an Aquarium,</p>
Three	<p>Maths</p> <p>http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/z826n39 https://uk.ixl.com/math/year-3 https://www.coolmath4kids.com/math-games http://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button</p> <p>English</p> <p>http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zv48q6f https://uk.ixl.com/ela/year-3 http://www.literacyshed.com/</p> <p>Science</p> <p>http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/scienceclips/ages/7_8/science_7_8.shtml http://www.crickweb.co.uk/ks2science.html</p> <p>Topic</p> <p>http://www.rainforest-alliance.org/kids?page=0</p> <p>General</p> <p>https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/student-activities/</p>	<p>Autumn:</p> <p>-Locate different periods of the Stone age on a o timeline. -Research about and design a Stone Age tool or weapon. -Visit a museum to find out more about Stone Age.</p> <p>Spring:</p> <p>-research about carbon footprint -Create a poster - write a list with things you can do to save energy</p> <p>Summer:</p> <p>-Design a Brazilian flag. -Research about rainforest animals- go to the zoo -Write a letter to a VIP about things to do to stop deforestation in Brazilian Rainforest. -Learn how to dance Samba- Brazilian traditional dance.</p>
Four	<p>English</p> <p>http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/english/</p> <p>SPaG</p> <p>http://www.topmarks.co.uk/english-games/7-11-years/spelling-and-grammar http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/english/spelling_grammar/</p> <p>Maths</p> <p>http://uk.mathletics.com/ http://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/7-11-years/ordering-and-sequencing-numbers http://www.coolmath-games.com/</p> <p>Science</p> <p>http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/science/living_things/te</p>	<p>Autumn</p> <p>Research about the Romans</p> <p>Visit the Roman Baths</p> <p>Design and create a volcano</p> <p>Make a poster explaining states of matter</p> <p>Spring</p> <p>Research about teeth and digestion</p>

	eth_eating/read/1/ http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/science/physical_processes/circuits_conductors/read/1/	Design an Egyptian pyramid Summer Design a world map Make an electrical circuits
Five	http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/levels/zbr9wmn http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/scienceclips/index_flash.shtml https://www.mathsisfun.com/games/ https://scratch.mit.edu/projects/editor/?tip_bar=getStarted	Cook a meal from a country we are studying this year – How about China or Greece?
Six	English: Revision http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2 Spelling Grammar and Punctuation http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/english/spelling_grammar/ https://www.ego4u.com/en/cram-up/grammar http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/english/spelling_grammar/ Maths: http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/maths/ Perimeter/ Area/Volumes (Revise, Activity & Test) http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/topics/zrf3cdm Measurement (Revise, Activity & Test) http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/topics/z4vg9j6 Trigonometry (Revise, Activity & Test) http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/topics/z93rkqt Angles and Triangles (Revise, Activity & Test) http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/guides/zrck7ty/revision Time (Revise, Activity & Test) http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/guides/z3rk7ty/revision	Autumn: Visit National History Museum, look at classicisation of animals Spring: Visit Imperial War Museum Research and create and Anderson Shelter (<i>What was it for, how was it used, who was it for, etc.</i>) Summer: Devise and investigate ideas for science fair

<p>Roman Numerals https://www.mathsisfun.com/roman-numerals.html</p> <p>Revision (Mathletics) https://community.mathletics.com/signin/#/student</p> <p>Resources https://www.mathsisfun.com/numbers/index.html</p> <p>Science: http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2 Science Fair Ideas https://www.education.com/science-fair/elementary-school/</p> <p>Topic Africa: http://www.our-africa.org UK: http://travel.nationalgeographic.com/travel/countries/united-kingdom-facts/ WW2: http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primaryhistory/world_war2/</p>	
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Yours sincerely,

Miss Shuttleworth
Headteacher