

Wallace Fields Infant School and Nursery



Home Activities Policy

Wallace Fields Infant School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Reviewed: Autumn 2024

Next Review: Autumn 2026

Wallace Fields Infant School is proud to be a part of South Farnham Educational Trust.

This document is a statement of the philosophy and strategies for Home Activities at Wallace Fields Infant School.

Rationale:

Wallace Fields Infant School is committed to setting regular Home Activities appropriate to the age, needs and experiences of the child.

Home Activities are important at all stages in a child's education and when used properly, it extends the challenge open to the pupil and ensures that teaching time is used to maximise effect. Home Activities make a significant contribution to the development of independent learning, setting a good example to encourage pupils as they get older to develop the confidence and self-discipline needed to study on their own.

Home activities should be consistent and manageable for children and their parents either on a weekly or daily basis.

Home Activities refers to any activity which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents or carers.

Individual pieces of home learning will not be marked with a stamp however at the end of each half term, home learning will be celebrated by the whole class and children's efforts will be recognised with super star stickers. Children will be given the opportunity to talk about their home learning with the rest of their class.

Aims of Home Activities:

- To support children's learning opportunities via reinforcement and revision, particularly in Maths, Literacy and Science
- To provide opportunities for parents, pupils and teachers to work in partnership
- To share with parents the expectations school has regarding their child
- To provide opportunities for parents and pupils to work together to enjoy learning experiences and to maximise the use of resources for learning of all kinds at home
- To encourage the development of positive attitudes towards learning among children.

Recommended Time Allocation:

Time spent on home activities should be approximately 60 minutes per week. It may be slightly less in Reception and slightly more in Year 2. Of course, if a child has spent the recommended time on a Home Activity but has not completed the activity, parents are welcome to write in the Home Activities and indicate how long was spent doing it in order ensure quality family time is not impacted and the child is not spending an unreasonably long time completing Home Activities. Home Activities are not set during holidays as the school regards holidays as an opportunity for quality family time.

Home Activities Procedures:

Year 1 and Year 2 Book of Brilliance: At the beginning of each year half term, parents will receive their child's Book of Brilliance. Inside the front cover will be a letter from the Year Group explaining

how our home learning works. This letter outlines the procedures, expectations and times / dates regarding the Home Activities their child will receive during the year ahead.

- Every half term we will send home five activities plus a free choice activity which will be linked to the topic for the term.
- Home activities will cover a variety of curriculum areas, e.g. let's get creative (Art and DT), let's get imaginative, (Art, English) let's get exploring (science, Geography, History), let's get visiting, (Science, Geography, History, RE) let's get investigative (Science), to name but a few.
- The activities are to be completed within the term time.
- They will be given out on the first Monday of the half term and are due back in on the last Wednesday of the half term.
- It is up to parents/carers how many of the home learning activities they choose to do with your child however they must ensure **they complete at least one and the child is prepared to share this at the 'Fabulous Finish' on the last day of the term.**
- Reading should take place at least 3 times a week using their phonics book or library book. Reading Eggs should be accessed at least twice a week. Therefore **a reading based activity should be undertaken 5 times a week.**
- Children should practise their handwriting which will focus on the sounds learnt that week or any spelling rules.
- For those parents who are keen to work on more maths at home, you can have a go at some of the suggested 'Home Fluency activities'.
- Every half term in Key Stage One, the children will be sent home with a list of Common Exception Words related to their Year Group. Parents will be able to see which ones the children can read and spell as these will be highlighted in pink, and which ones they need to work on. (not highlighted).
- Phonics books will be sent home to ALL children. Each week the children will add their new sounds. They are to remain in the children's book bags so they can be used to practise with the children both in school and at home.
- Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in all Home Activities.

For Foundation and Key Stage 1 Pupils we recommend:

- Pupils complete Home Activities in **short daily sessions**, 'a little and often', for example reading on a daily basis.
- Pupils complete Home Activities by using **games** enabling pupil's emotions of enthusiasm and excitement to help them learn avoiding emotions of fear and anxiety. The use of **rewards** is important means to motivate pupils.
- Pupils complete Home Activities **together** with adults or older siblings to encourage a supportive culture whereby pupils understand they always have help at hand.
- Pupils complete Home Activities by **talking** about it to family members – as learning is enhanced by sharing with others.

Communication with parents: Home Activities procedures provide opportunity for teachers and parents to communicate regarding the Home Activities of individual children. The children's Book of Brilliance is shared with the teachers and other children in the class so that all children's learning can be celebrated.

SEN Procedures: Children who need extra support with literacy or numeracy may need extra, differentiated support. The parents/carers will be given clear guidelines through a SEND Arrangement Plan, so that the demands on the individual child are balanced and manageable.

- Usually the class teacher talks to the parents. In special cases the SENCo could also be involved.
- The Home Activities should be amended according to the child's need.
- The Home Activity should give plenty of opportunities for the child to succeed.
- It should be varied and not always a recording activity.