

In our family questionnaire in January 2023, an action was identified to review our approaches to homework and learning at home. In March 2023, 68 families (76% of families) provided feedback. We have used the feedback to develop our homework principles and approach to homework in Cawdor.

What do we know about homework in primary school?

The research on homework in primary school shows that it only has a very small impact on a child’s progress in their learning. The benefit is greater in secondary schools. Homework should never be something new, should not be something that causes friction at home, and should not take time away from teaching or planning time which we know do have a positive impact on a child’s progress.

Cawdor – Homework Principles

- **Homework is focused on fluency.** The greatest impact in primary school when learning at home is through families reading together using books that children choose. Reading and spelling words are the reverse of one another; children need to develop the fluency in both these skills. Another area that is shown to have a positive impact through home learning is number fluency, e.g. number bonds/ multiplication tables. Homework in Cawdor is therefore informed by what has the greatest impact – fluency in reading, spelling and numeracy.
- **Homework is optional.** The homework provided will reinforce learning that is currently or has previously been taught in the classroom. Homework should be something that children can complete with ease with support at home from family members. Teaching and assessment time will not focus on homework. Our approach allows families to reinforce learning at home if they choose to.
- **Homework can be planned for within a family’s schedule.** Homework will be given over a weekend so that families wishing to engage in this can do so around their various commitments.

What will homework look like in Cawdor?

	Phonics and Spelling	Reading	Numeracy & Mathematics
P1, P2 and P3	The phonic pattern(s) that your child is learning will be shared on SeeSaw. A list of games that you can play together as families to reinforce and practise the phonic pattern will be sent home*. <i>(*In P1 – this will initially focus on the skills which underpin phonics: phonological awareness)</i>	A reading book that your child has previously read will be sent home weekly*. A weekly structure to support you sharing the books that are sent home together will be provided. <i>(*In P1 – reading books will be sent home January onwards once reversible decoding/ encoding skills have been taught. Children will initially take home picture books for families to share together.)</i>	In P1 and P2 Your child will be given the “Basic Fact” sheets that we use in P1 and P2, a laminate pouch and a white board pen. These can be used for regular practice, beginning with ‘Basic Fact 1’ and progressing on to the next “Basic Fact” sheet once they are confident. Ongoing practice will support number fluency. In P1-P7 Your child will be given home login details of “XtraMath” to support reinforcement of number fluency at home. This can be done once a day for up to ten minutes.
P4 and P5	We use an approach to spelling called ‘Wraparound Spelling’ (extended to ‘Roots and Shoots’ at the end of primary) where your child studies a spelling pattern in class each week. Your child selects words to practise. A list of activities that families can play together to reinforce these will be sent home.	A reading book to support fluency will be sent home weekly. This will be a book your child can read with minimal prompting. A card with suggested follow-up tasks will be sent home.	
P6 and P7		Your child will either select a book to take home or use a book of their choice from home with a recommended 10 minutes (+) reading per day. A card with suggested follow-up tasks will be sent home which can be used to explore books together at home.	In P3-P7 Your child will be given a “TeeJay” homework book and a jotter. A section that you can do to reinforce a previously taught concept will be shared weekly. The book comes with answers to mark together at home.

There will be no additional homework sent home from classes.