



The Willow Primary School and Broadwaters' Children Centre
Broadwaters Inclusive Learning Community
Adams Road
Tottenham
N17 6HW
Tel: 020 8885 8800
Fax: 020 8885 8809
Email: admin@thewillow.haringey.sch.uk
Website: www.thewillow.haringey.sch.uk
Headteacher: Dawn Ferdinand/Deputy Head: Sarah Harris

NEW HOMEWORK – COMING SOON!

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am very pleased to be announcing that our new look homework should be coming out to you early next week. Thank you for bearing with us while we have worked together to find, what we believe, is the best way forward for homework at The Willow.

Thank you also to everyone who took part in the consultation, over 30 parents came to the morning workshop and more than 60 participated in the online survey – a fantastic response. All of your feedback was shared with teachers in a staff meeting at the the end of last term and a second meeting at the beginning of this term was used to plan the way forward. The feedback from parents showed a wide range of views and perspectives, from those who would prefer to see no more homework to those who desired a more creative approach with increased parental involvement and then there were those who were happy with how things have been.

We considered all the parent feedback and comments along with the recommendations made by the Education Endowment Foundation research, our own staff evaluation and feedback from pupils when designing our new approach. Below is an overview of what you can expect to see starting from next week.

Weekly Homework

This will be set/given out on Wednesday each week and should be completed by Monday.

Spellings – sent home weekly as currently happens

Mathletics – specific maths tasks (differentiated) will be set each week. Children will need to complete these before they can access the wider programme. Children who do not have access to a computer or tablet at home can use the IT suite one morning or lunchtime a week for mathletics – information on which days will be in your homework letter

Reading – children should still read / be heard read daily and AR will continue as before.

Half Termly Homework

The children will be given half a term to complete the homework described below. The homework letter will have a 'return by' deadline.

Maths – there will be a range of different maths activities for children to choose from. Usually they will have to choose at least 2 to complete – we are starting late this half term so this time they will choose at least 1.

English/topic/science – there will be 2 sections. Section one will set out a choice of written tasks from which the child must choose 1 and section 2 will have more creative/activity based tasks from which the child must also choose 1. Again as there is not much time between now and the end of term so this time children will choose 1 from either section rather than both.

If any of this is confusing – don't worry, it should all become clear when you get the homework next week!



Sharing and Celebrating Homework

Children can bring their homework in any time up to the deadline date on the homework letter. On the deadline day, or within a couple of days, the class will dedicate a session to sharing and celebrating the homework. Depending on the tasks and age of the children this may include – presenting their homework to a work partner/table group/the class. Working through maths tasks as a whole class or in pairs discussing different approaches, solutions etc. Marking their own or partners work against different criteria. Some or all of the work may also be displayed in the classroom or around the school.

Parents/carers and homework

The research shows that parental involvement in homework is beneficial to children's learning, however you will all know that the amount of time each of you has to get involved in your child's homework will vary greatly. The teachers have chosen a range of tasks, some of which children should be able to complete on their own and some which parents can get stuck into as well. I would like to stress that we value the contribution and effort each and every child makes to their homework. Projects which are evidently a child's own work will be given as much value as those which have had adult support. However much time you are able to give we do expect all parents/carers to ensure that their child is completing the homework set, both weekly and half termly, and bringing it to school on time.

Optional Workbooks

In the parent workshop we put forward a suggestion that the school sells workbooks to parents/carers who want them to supplement the homework the school provides. As the response to this was overwhelmingly positive we have decided to move forward with this idea. Please note that whether you buy packs or books will be up to you. Look out for more information on this after half term.

We will be running this approach to homework for the rest of this academic year. As you know we always appreciate feedback and will be evaluating this way of doing homework in the summer term. In the meantime if you have any comments or feedback please do feel free to speak to member of staff or email using **parents@thewillow.haringey.sch.uk**

Wishing you all the best.

Sarah Harris
Deputy Head

