Home Learning Policy

Reviewed by	Headteacher
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Home Learning at The Woolenwick Schools

At The Woolenwick Schools, we use a variety of home learning strategies to support the children in making outstanding progress. This policy sets out the different home learning approaches that we use and our expectations of how frequently the children should complete each activity in each year group. This policy is for term time but we would encourage both regular reading and times table practice during school holidays as well.

Taking responsibility for home learning is an important part of a child's development as an independent learner. Completing learning at home helps children to develop an understanding of time management, problem-solving, and self-discipline and gaining a good sense of personal responsibility for their learning.

However, we also understand the value in children having time outside of school to engage in physical exercise as well as taking time to refresh their minds and bodies. This is the reasoning as to why home learning expectations are broadly kept to our two areas of reading and times tables. These two areas are the focus because they can make the largest positive impact on a child's academic achievement supporting them in all areas of the curriculum.

Why is reading so important?

"Studies show that reading for pleasure makes a big difference to children's educational performance. Here's how you can get your child off to a great start.

Evidence suggests that children who read for enjoyment every day not only perform better in reading tests than those who don't, but also develop a broader vocabulary, increased general knowledge and a better understanding of other cultures.

In fact, reading for pleasure is more likely to determine whether a child does well at school than their social or economic background." (Pearson www.pearson.com 2026)

Why are times tables so important?

"*Having a secure grasp of the basics of maths, including the fluent recall of times tables, is crucial for children's success in moving on to more complex maths.*

Learning multiplication tables is a key part of maths education in many high-performing education systems such as those in Shanghai and Singapore." (educationhub.blog.gov.uk 2026)

Home Learning Expectations

Our expectations for **Woolenwick Infant and Nursery School** are set out below:

Nursery

- The children will be encouraged to take home a book to share with a parent. Parents are asked to be involved in choosing a book with their child and talking about the story, the pictures, the author, the plot and characters etc.
- Parents will be asked to help with the learning of Little Wandle phonics.
- Parents are encouraged to help their child practise writing his/her name using correct letter formation.
- Children will take part in whole school projects which are tailored to Nursery.

Reception

- The children will take home a library and reading book to read / share with a parent.
- Parents are asked to continue helping their child with Phonics learning by encouraging them to read daily helping their child recognise letter sounds and blend to read words.
- Parents will be asked to help their child practise letter and number formation.
- When introduced, parents will be asked to help their child recognise, read and write tricky words.
- Children will be invited to bring into school objects from home that will contribute towards a topic or display.
- Children will take part in whole school projects which are tailored to Reception.

Year One

- The children will take home a library book once a fortnight.
- The children will have their reading books changed (if read) twice a week. If children do not read the teacher must speak to the parent.
- Practice the sounds they have learnt that week, high frequency/ key words (reading and writing)
- Children may be given core word / tricky word spellings to learn by practising and writing them in sentences.
- Children may be given activities or research to do at home related to learning taking place in school.
- Children are expected to keep a diary, write a few sentences weekly, ready to share with the class each Friday
- Numbots practise 3 times a week, children without access to the internet can complete this in school time.

Year Two

- The children will take home a library book once a fortnight.

- The children will have their reading books change (if read) twice a week. If children do not read the teacher must speak to the parent.
- Children will be given words from the list, high frequency words and/or topic word spellings to learn by practising and writing in sentences.
- Children may be given activities or research to do at home related to learning taking place in school.
- Children are expected to keep a diary, write a few sentences weekly, ready to share with the class each Friday.
- Numbots practise 3 times a week, children without access to the internet can complete this in school time.

Our expectations for **Woolenwick Junior School** are set out below:

Regular Reading

Your child should be reading their reading book at home at least 5 times per week for a minimum of 10 minutes. We expect a minimum of at least 4 times per week with an adult to include questioning of what the children have read to work on comprehension skills. Please make sure this reading is recorded in your child's reading record. We encourage the children to read as much as possible and also encourage variety in their reading including newspapers, recipes, etc. For any tips on reading with your child, please speak with their class teacher.

Expectation: Reading at home at least 5 times a week (minimum of 10 minutes each session) including with an adult at least 4 times per week. An adult then records in the reading record.

If the reading book/record is not brought into school or signed, parents will be contacted by email. Children may end up attending home learning catch up club at a lunchtime. If a child continues to not complete home learning, they will attend a lunchtime exclusion.

Maths

Each week your child will be set learning on the Atom Learning online platform **and** on Times Table Rockstars. Learning will be set automatically to support each pupil's current stage of learning. These can be practised through fun and engaging games/activities on both platforms, using the log in your child has received.

Expectation: Year 3 and 4- Completion of 30-minutes on Times Table Rockstars on a weekly basis. This can be completed on any electronic device with internet capabilities. Atom Learning platform- optional.

Year 5 and 6- Completion of 30-minutes on Atom Learning platform on a weekly basis. This can be completed on any electronic device with internet capabilities. Times Table Rockstars- optional.

If maths home learning is not completed, parents will be contacted via email. Children will have to attend home learning catch up club at a lunchtime. If a child continues to not complete home learning, they will attend a lunchtime exclusion.