



8th January 2019.

Dear Parents and Carers.

Firstly, happy new year! From everyone at Westwood Academy, we hope you had a restful holiday and that everyone returns healthy and energised for the spring term.

I'm writing today regarding a change in our approach to homework. Following discussion across our trust, Westwood are going to pilot changes designed to best meet the needs of pupils given the demands of the current national curriculum. It is intended to be easier to organise for parents and pupils and build the mastery of skills that the current curriculum demands. This will affect all year groups except for year 6.

Starting from next week (ending 18th January 2019), the homework expectation will be as follows: -

- **Spelling practice** – as the pupils are currently used to doing – we suggest a quick practice each night after school.
- **Times tables practice** – using the TT Rockstars App for a 3-minute session after school each night. A separate letter will be sent about this later in the week.
- Finally, **daily reading** is perhaps the single most important activity to help open the world of learning to our pupils. Once they are effective readers, they can learn about anything. A minimum of 5-10 minutes daily reading and questioning that is **recorded** by parents – initials confirming this activity are all that is needed on a new reading record card that will be sent home next week, which will need to come back into school daily.

There will be additional creativity-based homework available linked to the topic being taught each term in each class, but this will be **OPTIONAL**. Details of each of these optional assignments will be given in the curriculum update that appears on the newsletter termly, as well as on the curriculum updates on the website.

For our pupils in year 6, we will continue with the approach used successfully for several years to prepare them to be able to tackle the end of key stage assessments in the most effective, stress-free manner.

More details of the new approach can be found on our website at www.westwoodacademy.org/homework/

Hopefully, this approach will result in more time for pupils to enjoy the benefits of reading and the academic success that strong reading brings, as well as making homework a more manageable process for both parents and pupils.

We will seek feedback on the pilot through our Parent Consultation Group during 2019.

Yours sincerely,

John Archer.
Headteacher.

