

# Welcome to **Westhaven School**

## Parent/Carer morning

We hope you enjoy spending an hour in our class today. During this hour you will have the opportunity to do the following:

- Look at your child's books/folder at current work achieved so far in the first few weeks of school
- See their classroom
- Meet and talk to staff
- Learn of your child's English and Math targets
- Meet and talk to Miss Jennings (Speech and language)
- Complete a Lego challenge

Please also find attached some more useful information about Westhaven School, and top tips on how you can support your child's learning at home.

Thank you for coming in 😊

## Targets

Pupils receive one Math and one English target by their teacher for those subjects. The pupils' targets are displayed in school on a board as well as in their folders; however their targets will always be in their diaries so you know at home what they are focusing on. When pupils show they are competent in their target on three attempts they will then receive a new target, this may be each term, or every few weeks, depending on the target.

## Curriculum over view

Attached is the curriculum over view to give you an idea of roughly what your child will be covering in each subject each term. This may change from time to time.

## Homework

Your child will receive one piece of Maths homework each week to complete. They will also receive phonic spellings each week. It is encouraged and suggested that as well as their spellings they read at least 3 books each week for English homework. This could be on Bugclub, using the reading book provided by school or by using their local library.



## Helping Your Child Learn to Read: A Parent Tip Sheet

Helping your child learn to read is one of the most important ways that you can support his or her education. Studies show that parental involvement is key to student success. Children who read outside of school as well as in school, are much more likely to succeed.

The following tips are intended to assist you in helping your child become a skilled, confident reader:

1. Read to your child for at least 15 minutes each day.
2. When your child is reading, use a "Pause, Prompt, Praise" approach:
  - a. **Pause:** If your child stops at a difficult word, then pause briefly. Wait for a few moments (count to five, silently and slowly) to give your child the opportunity to figure out the word.
  - b. **Prompt:** If your child cannot read the word or does not read it correctly, ask him or her to "Try again" or ask "What word would make sense?" or say "Look at the picture". If your child still cannot read the word correctly after two different prompts, say the word and ask him or her to repeat it. Continue with the reading.
  - c. **Praise:** When your child reads the difficult word correctly, praise him or her for reading the word without help.
3. Choose books that are interesting to your child and that are "just right" — not too hard, but not too easy.
4. If asked by your child to read a favourite book over and over, do so.
5. Talk about reading with your child. Before reading a book, look at the pictures with your child and ask him or her to predict what the story might be about. Talk about your child's favourite books or characters.  
Talk about different ways that a story might have ended.
6. Let your child see you reading novels, the newspaper or other texts. When children see their parents do something, they interpret it to be a valuable activity.
7. Read to your child books that were your favourites when you were a child, and talk about why you loved them.
8. Ask your child to picture the story as you read it.

9. Encourage your child to write about the stories that you have read together. Writing is an excellent support to reading.
10. Play letter and word games like Scrabble.
11. Encourage your child to "read" to you, even if he or she is not yet old enough to actually read the words on the page and is just following the pictures. This important activity, generally believed to be a step to early reading, will help your child to build confidence and an understanding about stories.
12. Create a home library or visit the public library regularly. Provide a variety of different reading materials: books, comics, newspaper, recipe books, computer software and an encyclopedia.
13. Point out words on street signs, cereal boxes, packaging for toys, etc.
14. Practise word solving strategies: look at the first letter of a word, reread, sound out words or skip a difficult word and read to the end of a sentence for clues as to what the word might be.
15. Show your child how much you value school and learning. Visit your child's class and talk to the teacher about his/her reading progress.
16. Do not stop reading to your child when he/she learns to read. There is much value to be gained from reading to your child until he/she reaches the teen years.
17. Take books wherever you go: to the restaurant, to visit relatives, in the car, on the bus, to the doctor's office.
18. Ask your child to read the recipe for you when you are cooking.

You can find magic  
wherever you look. Sit  
back and relax, all you  
need is a book.

- Dr. Seuss

## Maths in the home – ideas for parents to support early Maths at home

### Playing shops

- Collect food and grocery items and label them with prices written on sticky notes or prices cut out of shopping catalogues.
- Talk about how we pay for items using notes and coins.
- Make paper money or use play money to buy and sell goods from the shop.
- Order the food items by height (tallest to the shortest) or by cost (least expensive to most expensive).
- Introduce kitchen scales to the shop to weigh some foods such as a box of tea bags or a bag of rice and order items by weight.

### Playing games

- Play I Spy or other games to identify shapes, numbers and patterns.
- Dice are a great addition to any toy collection. Roll the dice and say, make or write the numbers identified. Roll the dice and add the numbers together to find the total.
- Play number games online with your child.

### Making patterns

- Identify and explain visual patterns on clothing, wrapping paper, crockery, cards and furniture.
- Use coloured pegs, blocks, beads or cutlery to begin a pattern for your child to continue. For example, red, blue, white, red, blue, white.
- Encourage your child to draw, create and describe their own patterns. Use them for borders or greeting cards or on material.

### Measuring things

- Use a wall measuring chart to measure the height of people in your family.
- Cut a piece of string for your child, any length will do. Use the string to measure the objects in your house to find out what is longer or shorter than your 'string measuring tape'. Ask your child to identify anything that is the same length.
- Explore other ways of measuring using a cup, jug, teaspoon, icy pole sticks, foot prints or hand lengths.
- Build a tower of blocks that is taller than a favourite toy. Ask your child to count the total blocks to measure the height of the tower.

#### Go on a number hunt

- With your child find numbers around you, for example house numbers, calendars.
- Look at and say numbers on car number plates, signs, calendars, newspapers, shopping catalogues, speed signs, house numbers
- Use different numbers as the starting point for practicing counting, for example start counting from 6 or 10. Ask your child to count forwards and backwards. Ask what number comes before or what number comes after.
- Identify the numbers on a calculator.

#### Turn Maths into a story

- Count the fruit in the fruit bowl.
- Cut fruit into six pieces.
- Count the pieces of toast you cooked at breakfast.
- Add the total of cutlery at the table.
- Count the number of people travelling in the car or the bus.

#### Moving with Maths

- How many jumps does it take you to get to.....?
- How many times can you tap the balloon before it touches the ground?
- How long does it take you to skip to...?
- How many throws can we do without dropping the ball?

#### Use playing cards

- Play matching number games with playing cards.
- Put cards in order from largest to smallest by counting the shapes (hearts, spades) or using the numbers on the cards





## Useful Websites

### **All Subjects**

<http://www.coxhoe.durham.sch.uk/> Go to 'curriculum' and choose the subject you are interested in – there are links to many other sites with plenty of interactive resources.

<http://www.primaryresources.co.uk/> Plenty of worksheets and PowerPoint presentations covering most of the core areas of the curriculum.

<http://www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/> Mainly Numeracy, Literacy and Science games and interactive activities.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/> Age appropriate, subject specific activities, games, worksheets and experiments. Also has revision activities.

<http://www.ngfl-cymru.org.uk/eng/index-new.htm> Welsh grid for learning, activities supporting all areas of the curriculum including F/S. Set up as Starter, Main Activity and Plenary for most subjects.

<http://www.crickweb.co.uk/> Fun and useful interactive activities for most subjects as well as games for the children.

<http://www.sparklebox.co.uk/> Mainly useful for Lit. Num. and Topic work – also has some lovely materials to make up displays/role play areas etc.

[http://www.icteachers.co.uk/resources/home\\_resources.htm](http://www.icteachers.co.uk/resources/home_resources.htm) This site has links to all subjects and generally the resources are PowerPoint presentations, worksheets or ideas rather than interactive resources.

<http://www.childrensuniversity.manchester.ac.uk/> A very odd combination of random Science, History, Art and Literacy activities but interactive and fun!

<http://demo.onlineclub.iboard.co.uk/> Scroll down the page to view activity by curriculum topic. Some really nice interactive activities – bright and colourful so particularly nice for F/S and K/S 1.

<http://www.teachingideas.co.uk/index.shtml> Contains ideas, worksheets and some PowerPoint presentations based on all curriculum areas.

<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/> Contains links to interactive resources based on all subject areas.

<http://www.senteacher.org/Print/> A limited range of resources for children with SEN but particularly useful are the 'feelings bubble' and 'certificate maker'.

<http://www.snaithprimary.eril.net/> A really lovely collection of topic based articles, stories and images (Mainly history or F/S based).

<http://www.teachitprimary.co.uk/> Another site that you will have to register with (for free) in order to download the pdf's. It is possible to download changeable word documents but only if you join as a paying member.

<http://www.historyonthenet.com/> Wide ranging history resources, many of which we can support with Communicate In Print if required.

### Literacy

<http://www.ictgames.co.uk/> A whole range of lovely interactive games for Primary aged children.

<http://www.sebastianswan.org.uk/> Sebastian swan big books to share with the class, including some questions about the text (also available in French and Welsh!!!)

<http://www.storiesfromtheweb.org/> Book reviews, free stories, writing activities and games for Primary aged children.

<http://www.magickeys.com/books/index.html> Scroll down the page for free online animated stories.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/wordsandpictures/index.shtml> BBC website based on 'letter and sounds'. Includes some great online games and activities – particularly the blending games.

activities).

<http://www.candlelightstories.com/storybooks/grimms-fairy-tales/> Audio books, stories and games. Many of the stories are 'classics' eg. from the brothers Grimm (read with an American accent)

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/websites/4\\_11/site/literacy.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/websites/4_11/site/literacy.shtml) The Primary Literacy zone from BBC schools.

<http://www.seussville.com/> Games based on the stories

<http://ngfl.northumberland.gov.uk/ict/> For children in FS or early years with fine motor control problems

<http://tutpup.com/plays/new/2-word-game> A fun spelling game against an opponent (computer) and the clock. Also improves typing speed and accuracy.

[http://www.usborne-quicklinks.com/uk/uk\\_menu\\_areas\\_pages/reading\\_programme/reading\\_programme.asp?type=subject&menu=s115](http://www.usborne-quicklinks.com/uk/uk_menu_areas_pages/reading_programme/reading_programme.asp?type=subject&menu=s115) Links for books on the Usbourne reading scheme but also helpful for topic work as it has good hyperlinks.

<https://www.activelearnprimary.co.uk/login?c=0> Online interactive Ebook website -Bugclub. Requires school subscription log on, which students should have allocated to them

<http://www.doorwayonline.org.uk/letterformation.html> A lovely interactive and visual resource for the support of letter and number formation

### Numeracy

<http://www.ictgames.co.uk/> A whole range of lovely interactive games for Primary aged children.

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/websites/4\\_11/site/numeracy.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/websites/4_11/site/numeracy.shtml) Numeracy homepage from the BBC including interactive games, programmes and worksheets.

<http://www.teachers.ash.org.au/jeather/maths/dictionary.html> A fantastic maths dictionary complete with visual demonstrations of many difficult concepts

<http://www.funbrain.com/brain/MathBrain/MathBrain.html> Fun maths games that can be set to different levels of difficulty. Each 'level' is a different game to the one preceding it.

<http://pbskids.org/cyberchase/allgames.html> Maths games for older children although they will probably be unaware that it is 'work'!

<http://tutpup.com/> Great maths games that can be set at different levels – playing against an opponent (computer) or the clock – very addictive!

<http://www.mathsisfun.com/> Games and explanations of different concepts with child friendly illustrations.

<http://www.mathsphere.co.uk/fun/> Maths games for older children.

<http://www.sumdog.com/> A great interactive maths website with lots of differentiated games, school membership and log in required

<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/5-7-years/counting> A huge array of interactive resources for ages from 3-14 years

## Other

<http://funschool.kaboose.com/> Fun games for children

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/> Characters, stories, songs and games for young children based on Cbeebies shows.

<http://tv.disney.go.com/playhouse/index.html> Games, characters and other activities from Disney.

<http://www.kidswb.com/> Games and downloads from Warner Bros. for younger children

<http://www.starwars.com/kids/> Games, craft ideas, online colouring etc!

<http://www.pixar.com/shorts/index.html> Watch any of the classic Pixar 'Shorts', very, very funny!

<http://www.dreamworks.com/> Games, downloads and printables for kids.

<http://www.roalddahl.com/> Games and activities based on the books

<http://www.kidsgames4free.com/> A whole range of fun free games for upper ks1 and ks2 children.